



AFGHANISTAN REPORT

NO. 46

FEBRUARY 1988



**CRISIS & CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM
THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES
SECTOR F-5/2, P. O. BOX 1173,
ISLAMABAD-PAKISTAN**

CRISIS AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM (CCAT) AFGHANISTAN

<i>Chairman</i>	.. Kamal Matinuddin
<i>Co-Chairman</i>	.. Ijaz S. Gilani
<i>Project Coordinators</i>	.. Fazal-ur-Rahman Najam Abbas
<i>Associates</i>	.. Mohammad Umar Khan M. Ashraf Poswall

1. The Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team comprises of leading academicians, strategists, researchers and policy analysts interested in the study of international relations. The members of this team meet periodically in groups; one team is devoted to the study of the Afghan crisis and conflict. In the light of carefully monitored information each group reviews current developments in its respective conflict area, and offers various policy options for consideration. While the Institute of Strategic Studies provides the forum, coordinates research and publishes the findings of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team, it does not necessarily share the views expressed by the team members whose participation in this group is in their individual capacity.

2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor

AFGHANISTAN REPORT: FEBRUARY 1988

**IJAZ S. GILANI
FAZAL-UR-RAHMAN**



Edited and Published by Kamal Matinuddin on behalf of the Institute of Strategic Studies vide DM. Islamabad Memo No. 2617/C of 14-7-1985 and despatched under GPO's Registered No. N-1072, Telephones: 824628, 821340, 824658.

Subscription Rates: *Annual* Rs. 120.00 *Single copy* Rs. 10; *Overseas Annual* US \$ 60.00; *Single* US \$ 5.00 including air mail. Address: The Institute of Strategic Studies, Sector F-5/2, Islamabad.

Printed by Abdal Ghani Barq at Ferozsons Rawalpindi Ltd., 32 Saddar Road Rawalpindi, Telephones: 62302 — 62366 — 67901 Telex: 54055 BARQ Pk.

Variety Book Shop

**41 BANK ROAD
RAWALPINDI**

☎ 583397

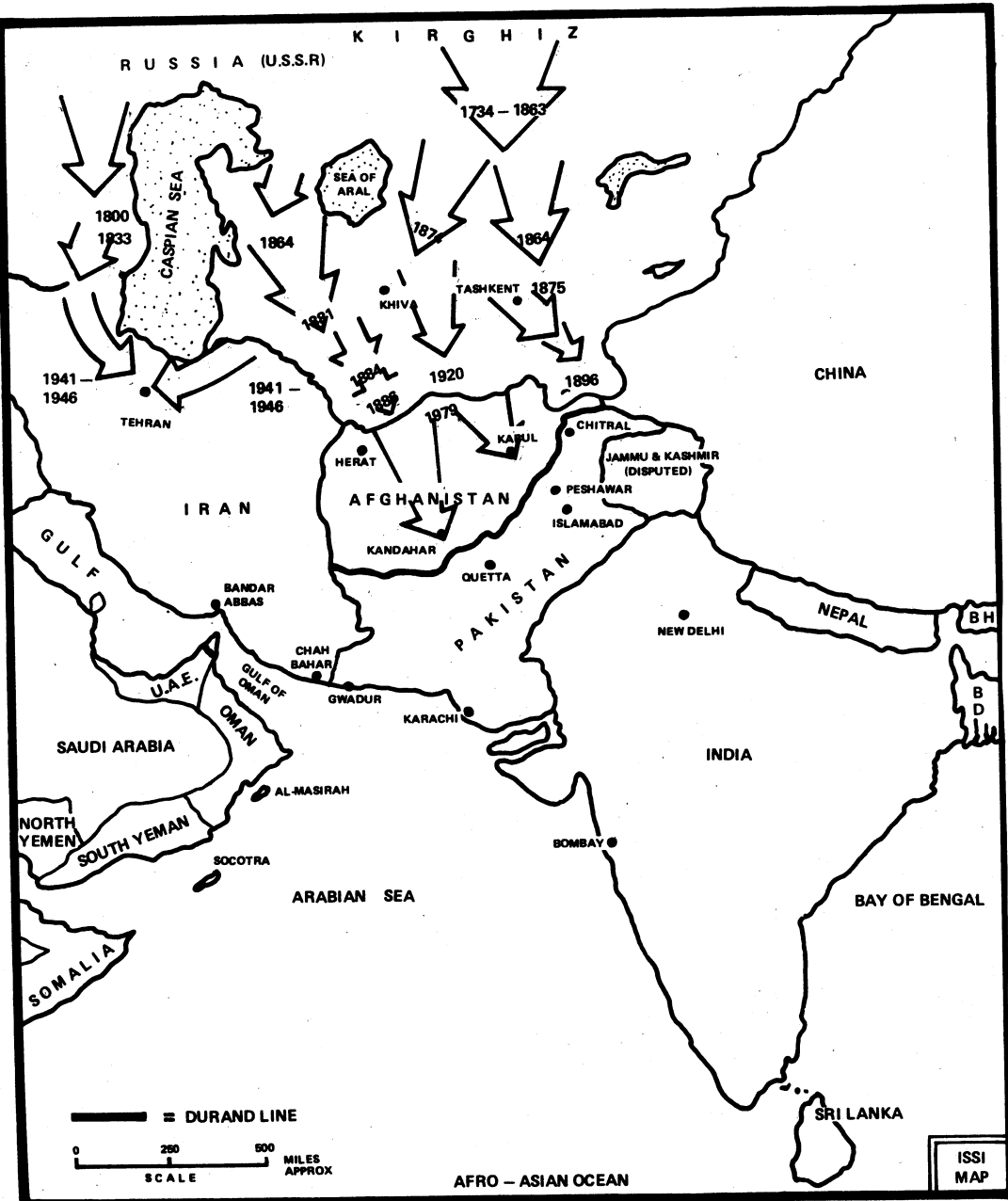
ACRONYMS

AAP	=	Agency Afghan Press (Mujahideen).
AAPSO	=	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.
AAWC	=	All Afghanistan's Women Council.
ADBA	=	Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan.
ALA	=	Association of Lawyers of Afghanistan.
APC	=	Armoured Personnel Carrier.
CC	=	Central Committee.
CP	=	Communist Party.
DRA	=	Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.
DYOA	=	Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.
HIS	=	Haqiqat-e-Inqilab-e-Saur ('The Truth of the Saur Revolution'), daily newspaper.
HMV	=	Heavy Military Vehicles.
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune.
ICRC	=	International Committee of the Red Cross.
KHAD	=	State Secret Service.
KNT	=	Kabul New Times.
LOSPA	=	Local Organs of State Power and Administration.
NFF	=	National Fatherland Front.
NVDP	=	Ningarhar Valley Development Project.
PDPA	=	Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.
POA	=	Pioneers Organization of Afghanistan.
PSFO	=	Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization.
RC	=	Revolutionary Council.
SAFS	=	Soviet Afghan Friendship Society.
TUA	=	Trade Unions of Afghanistan.
UJA	=	Union of Journalists of Afghanistan.
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
UNGA	=	United Nations General Assembly.
VFA	=	Voice of Free Afghanistan.
VOA	=	Voice of America.
VOG	=	Voice of Germany.
VOIR	=	Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (reportedly based in Iran).
WDS	=	Western Diplomatic Sources.
WHO	=	World Health Organization.
YPO	=	Young Pioneer's Organization.
'Jehad'	=	To strive, struggle, resist, fight against, as an article of Faith. One of the main tenets of Islam.
'Mujahideen'	=	Those who take part in Jihad against oppression and aggression, as an article of faith.
'Jirga'	=	Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Loi Jirga'	=	National Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Afghanis'	=	Afghan Currency.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
The Historical Perspective .. ISSI Map	
I. The Fourth Afghan War .. <i>Hasan Akhter Gardezi and Najam Abbas</i>	
1. Summary Perspective	1
2. Major Military Engagements	3
3. Provincewise Survey Analysis	5
4. Psychological Warfare Themes	43
APPENDICES	
1. Estimate of Losses: Mujahideen Sources	45
2. Estimate of Losses: Kabul-Moscow Sources	46
3. Provincewise Distribution of Engagements: Mujahideen Sources	47
4. Mujahideen Mobile and Immobile Targets and Soviet-Kabul Operations: Mujahideen Sources	48
5. Provincewise Security Operations and Returnees: Soviet-Kabul Sources	49
6. Afghan Civilian Human and Material Losses: January 1988	50
7. Map of Afghanistan	51
8. Notes	53
II. The Politico-Economic and Socio-Cultural Development in Afghanistan .. <i>Fazal-ur-Rahman</i>	
1. Messages and Meetings	54
2. Political Developments	55
3. Nationalities Policy	64
4. Economy	66
5. Education	75
6. Social and Culture	79

THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



I.— THE FOURTH AFGHAN WAR

1 — SUMMARY PERSPECTIVE (see map Appendix 7)

Mujahideen sources reported 371 military engagements in 27 out of 29 provinces of Afghanistan in January 1988. No reports were received from Zabul and Uruzgan provinces.

The highest intensity of conflict was witnessed in Paktiya, Kabul and Ningarhar provinces and sizeable engagements took place in Herat, Parwan and Kapisa provinces.

Urban conflict was reported from 17 provincial capitals, Kabul, Qandahar, Herat, Maidan Shehr and Parwan among others.

Thus it might be said that the scale of war-related activities was higher in Kabul and adjoining provinces.

Soviet-Kabul Operations

A Soviet-Kabul force attacked a Mujahideen supply convoy near Zaranj, Nimruz.

Armoured units encircled Mujahideen positions in Mewand area of Qandahar province. Soviet-built aircraft bombarded the area and destroyed and damaged a large number of houses.

Soviet-Kabul troops mounted a major operation against Mujahideen in Mohallajat area of Qandahar which, for the past several years, had served as a stronghold of Mujahideen.

A Soviet-Kabul force shelled Minla rural area of Khugiani district of Ningarhar province on January 11. Even as Mujahideen announced a "temporary ceasefire" in Torkham on January 21, (in connection with the burial of Bacha Khan) Afghan airforce jets bombarded Mujahideen positions.

Soviet-built jets dropped bombs on villages near the Faizabad airport (Badakhshan). Twenty-two civilians were killed.

Soviet-Kabul troops attacked Mujahideen positions in Shulgar district (Balkh).

An armoured force attempted to encircle a Mujahideen centre south of Farah city. Soviet-Kabul troops made several attempts to regain control of some posts in Shaba area of Panjsher valley.

Afghan airforce aircraft attacked a Mujahideen supply convoy as it was passing through Nooristan over the Hindukush range in Laghman province.

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad, in the preparation of this part of the monthly report.

Mujahideen Military and Political Targets

Mujahideen attacked a military centre in Grishik town of Hilmand province. Clashes took place in and around Qandahar city, January 10—14. Engagements took place in Mohallajat, old city, Deh Bagh, Kabi and Zalkhan localities of Qandahar.

Mujahideen damaged a radar system in Muqur area of Ghazni province. Mujahideen attacked Kabul troops positions in Aab Band and Bazak, security post at Qila Bargate; centre of 7th division of Muqur, Battalion headquarters, a cinema house, club and Conference hall in Muqur, army centre in Qarabagh and a "police brigade" in Chardewal area.

Mujahideen attacked the centre of 9th division in Asadabad, Kunar. An arms and ammunition depot was hit.

Mujahideen attacked installations in and around Faizabad airport in Badakhshan province.

Mujahideen attacked administration establishments in the provincial headquarters of Samangan province.

In Balkh Mujahideen hit 2 posts each in Mazar city and Shulgar district, military positions in Sar Asayab, fertilizer factory and airport in Mazar city and headquarters of 65th unit of Police in Chamtal district. The political commissioner of the police unit was among those killed in action.

Mujahideen attacked the 25th Kabul Brigade in Maimanah provincial headquarters and other positions of Kabul troops in Faryab province.

Mujahideen hit the military garrison and the airport in Qila Nao, headquarters of Baghlan province.

Mujahideen hit an army camp in Boqal, Farah province.

Mujahideen attacked convoys passing through Logar province.

Mujahideen damaged an "observation tower" in Sayedabad district of Wardak. 10 soldiers and 3 Khad agents were killed.

Mujahideen hit military and political establishments in Maidan Shehr. These included buildings of: provincial Cultural Department, Road Construction-Development Department, local administration offices, Traffic Police offices, 76th Brigade and Youth Organization offices (DYOA).

Economic Targets

Mujahideen attack on Asadabad the provincial headquarters Kunar province, resulted in the destruction of a "fuel tank".

A "textile factory" in Takhar's provincial headquarters was attacked.

Mujahideen blew up pipeline which carries Afghan natural gas to the Soviet Union near Qarqin town of Jozjan province.

Two government godowns (storing grains and other supplies) were destroyed by fire as Mujahideen attacked Maidan Shehr, Wardak.

Air Losses

In all Mujahideen reported hitting 7 helicopters and 11 planes in January 1988. Such incidents were reported from Qandahar, Paktika, Paktiya, Ningarhar, Parwan, Kapisa, Laghman, Logar and Wardak.

Defections

Five hundred and sixty-seven Kabul troops defected to Mujahideen in January 1988. According to Mujahideen sources defections took place mainly in Qandahar, Paktiya, Kunduz and Faryab provinces.

Kabul Sources Estimates

In all Radio Kabul reported 30 engagements in 12 provinces. These engagements comprised of 16 security forces operations and 14 were termed as "criminal acts committed by counter revolutionary elements".

2 — MAJOR MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

Paktiya

Reports from Mujahideen sources indicate that Mujahideen were active against security posts and other military establishments as well as military traffic between Gardez and Khost.

This was also confirmed by Kabul Radio. On January 7 it announced the wiping out of an "extremists armed group" obstructing convoy movement in the neighbourhood of Zadran.

Mujahideen attacked a Khost-bound convoy in Sata-Kandau area. Four trucks were destroyed and many troops on board were killed and wounded.

They also attacked a body of troops moving towards Shimal from Nadir Shahkot.

Mujahideen attacked Soviet Kabul posts in Jugi, between Jaji Maidan and Pakjuma area. Mujahideen killed 24 troops and seized a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Mujahideen captured some "military positions" west of Khost. Mujahideen sources reported clashes were continuing in early January in Zadran, Sata Kandau and Khost areas of Paktiya province.

Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul military positions near Khost

cantonment.

Security posts were also attacked at Baak, 9 kilometres north of Khost and Lakan, 5 kilometres southwards. Pravda published an article on January 17, which stated Afghan battalions were fighting at Baak "unceasingly".

In the first half of January Mujahideen attacked 16 army posts in Shamal, Saroti and Zadran areas, Soviet-Kabul troops in Khan Basaat, Ali Shehr and Taigai and military positions in Sarana.

Mujahideen attacked Afghan army positions at Gurgori mountains, 12 kilometres south of Gardez.

Mujahideen reported that they had recaptured some positions near Shina Ghundai on January 11.

In the second half of January Mujahideen ambushed Afghan troops in Mani Kandau area and captured four Khad agents along with a jeep.

Mujahideen landmines killed and wounded several officers and men engaged in mine sweeping operations in Nader Shahkot area.

Reports from Soviet Kabul Sources

Soviet-Kabul media gave extensive coverage to developments in and around Khost town of Pakhtiya province. The English language daily Kabul New Times carried lengthy articles on the subject. A close scrutiny of reports carried by Moscow and Kabul media would indicate some inconsistencies in their claims. Given below are a few examples:

Kabul New Times (KNT) in its December 29 issue quoted Salman Laeq, Minister for Tribal Affairs, as saying: "Our countrymen are informed that the security of Gardez-Khost highway has now been maintained and it is open to traffic".

A newscast on Moscow TV on January 1 showed that "combat operations" were continuing. Referring to explosions in the background scenes, captain Klintsevich told the television correspondent shooting is going on constantly ... and the enemy movement is visible".

On January 2, an article in KNT said that "the impassable valleys of Zadran area ... have now been cleaned of the extremists ... and the armed forces have reconstructed bridges and roads. ..."

However, on January 3, the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad told AFP that "the operations have not been terminated, as there are isolated groups of counter-revolutionaries launching rocket attacks from the mountains".

Pravda published a correspondent's despatch on January 2 saying that "combat operations are continuing ... blue puffs of smoke occasionally rise as artillery is shelling the gangs fortified areas.

In an article which appeared in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on January

12, the correspondent said "In the spurs of the mountains, the pall of explosions and clouds of black smoke is rising ... the artillery is pounding dushman positions ... the operations to wipe out Jalaluddin's bandit formations are continuing".

An "On the spot report" by Pravda correspondent V. Okulov published on January 17 stated "The dushmans regularly bombarded the airfield with rocket missiles when the aircraft arrives from Kabul".

Other Major Operations

Section 3 contains details of Mujahideen attack on Burqa Garrison. It also carries reports on Mujahideen capture of provincial officials in Baghlan. Mujahideen arrested Baghlan's governor and a high ranking Khad Official on January 8.

The capture of Shaba Garrison in Panjsher valley of Kapisa is also covered in section 3.

Mujahideen hit about 37 immobile targets in Kabul province, 30 in Pakitya, 22 in Ningarhar and 15 in Herat province in January.

3 — PROVINCEWISE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Provinces Bordering Pakistan

Nimruz

Mujahideen sources: A Soviet-Kabul force obstructed a Mujahideen supply convoy near Zaranj town, but had to break off and retreat after two hours of fighting, it was reported on 31 January. The Mujahideen lost a 'vehicle' during the encounter.

VIRA: Soviet aircraft carried out heavy bombardment on the civil population of Rabat in Nimruz province on Tuesday and Wednesday last (January 9, 1988).

Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul troops in Char Burjak area in Nimruz province on the 27th of last month. Eleven Soviet-Kabul troops joined the ranks of Mujahideen. In other operations in that area, they destroyed four security posts, and killed 35 Soviet hirelings. An ammunition depot was also destroyed and fifteen Soviet-Kabul troops captured. The Mujahideen gained control over the Char Burjak Uleswali (January 25, 1988).

In the course of successful operations in Del Aram area, the Mujahideen destroyed a military post killing 5 Russian troops (January 28, 1988).

Radio Kabul: On the basis of the presidential amnesty decree, 260 prisoners were released today from jails in Kunduz and Nimruz pro-

vinces (January 7, 1988).

Hilmand

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen attacked a 'military centre' in Grishik on the Qandahar-Herat highway on December 29. Using medium range missiles they destroyed a tank and two jeeps. Several Soviet-Kabul troops were killed.

Radio Kabul: A 250 man armed group led by Zakim Khan which had carried out armed activities in Hilmand province gave a positive reply to the resolutions and decisions of the Grand Assembly of peace and came over to the side of national reconciliation yesterday.

The BIA military correspondent reported that this group was welcomed.

The report adds that this group brought with them 4 rocket launchers, 1 mortar, 1 heavy machine gun, 8 various light weapons, and large amounts of ammunition which they handed over to the province's security forces (December 30, 1987).

Another extremist armed group which was engaged in terroristic activities in Hilmand province was smashed by the Afghan border guards and their leader captured. The province's security forces got possession of their arms (January 1, 1988).

Qandahar

Mujahideen sources: 17 December: Mujahideen shot down one of eight Soviet jets bombarding Mujahideen 'centre' in Arghandab.

19 December: Mujahideen attack an army camp in Qandahar killing 3 and capturing 14 soldiers. Thirteen 'innocent civilians' were freed from Soviet-Kabul imprisonment.

20 December: Mujahideen attack the 'Security Belt' around Qandahar city. One security post eliminated. Besides capturing 20 troops, Mujahideen seized a quantity of arms and ammunition.

22 December: Soviet armoured units encircled Mewand neighbourhood of Qandahar city attack Mujahideen strongholds. Soviet aircraft bombard the area indiscriminately as a result of which dozens of houses were demolished and a large number of civilians killed.

An attacking aeroplane was shot down.

26 December: Soviet-Kabul forces conduct heavy attack on Mujahideen positions in and around Mohallajat district. Their objective seemed to be to plug holes in the Security Belt around Qandahar city. Both sides suffer heavy losses. Soviet casualties were estimated at more than 100.

VIRA: Mujahideen attacked the positions of Soviet-Kabul troops

in the outskirts of Qandahar killing 4 communist troops and injuring 6 others.

In another operation in the same province Mujahideen blew up 6 tanks of the communist troops with mines (January 5, 1988).

Three Kabul troops defected from Qandahar military division and requested for asylum in Pakistan. They brought their arms with them (January 23, 1988).

A military convoy of the Soviet troops was attacked by the Mujahideen recently while it was on its way to Qandahar from Shah Agha area. Four tanks of the Soviet troops were destroyed.

According to another report, the Mujahideen attacked the military posts of the enemy in Gul Angan, Perzane and Koz Karlachi (ph) areas in Qandahar province. Three military vehicles and an ammunition depot of the enemy were set on fire. Eleven communists were killed and 19 others injured by the Mujahideen (January 28, 1988).

During the month of Qaus, the freedom fighters destroyed 15 posts and 4 camps of the communists in Mohallajat area of Qandahar (January 29, 1988).

Radio Tehran: According to an IRNA report, in an attack on a military convoy of the Soviet-Kabul troops on Qandahar-Herat highway, 70 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or injured while some tanks and other items were captured by the Mujahideen (News Persian: January 18, 1988).

Afghan Mujahideen carried out mortar attacks on a communist military camp on the Kabul-Qandahar highway in which 25 communist troops were killed or injured. Seven tanks and military vehicles of the enemy were also destroyed (News Urdu/Pushto: January 25, 1988).

Radio Jeddah: Political observers in Islamabad report that Afghan guerillas mounted an attack on Qandahar airport yesterday killing 25 communist troops and destroyed an aircraft. In another operation 2 Soviet helicopters were destroyed west of Qandahar (News Urdu: January 7, 1988).

BBC: Mujahideen sources in Quetta say that their stronghold in Mohallajat, west of Qandahar city has been besieged by the Soviet-Afghan forces. The Soviet-Afghan troops used armoured vehicles and Air Force units and they have now recaptured some posts from Mujahideen. Six or seven new security posts have also been established there.

Mujahideen sources say that the present situation is discouraging to some extent because of the difficulties of access to Mohallajat area. Armoured units were trying to contain the activities of Mujahideen during the day while Air Force units bombard the area during night (January 20, 1988).

VOA: The strongholds of Afghan Mujahideen at outskirts of Qandahar city area said to have come under the siege of Soviet forces. Our Islamabad correspondent, Irfan Ghazi has sent the following report. Nazakat Ali gives details:—

In Southern Afghanistan, Soviet forces have recaptured the post located around Qandahar city which were earlier held by Afghan Mujahideen in November, 1987. As a result of this seized new situation, Afghan Mujahideen who had been steadfastly holding positions at the outskirts of the city since long, have now come under the narrow siege of communist forces. A messenger of Afghan Mujahideen who reached Pakistan city of Quetta says that Soviet forces have recaptured all the posts around the strongholds of Mujahideen in the suburbs of Mohallajat area of Qandahar city. Afghan Mujahideen source says that Soviet troops backed by heavy weapons and air cover had launched this offensive at the end of December 1987, but failed and again launched a forceful attack on January 1. The source of Afghan Mujahideen further said that Mujahideen were pushed back in Mohallajat area as on January 9. The entire area from south-east of Qandahar to south-west and then upto north-west has been a stronghold of Mujahideen for years. All earlier attempts to dislodge them had failed. These attempts include setting up of a network of military posts around the suburban area of the city which were ransacked by Mujahideen in November. But this time the Soviet occupation forces have launched a decisive offensive. The Mujahideen messenger who escaped from communist siege and reached Pakistan through difficult mountainous terrain, added that some 1,500 Afghan Mujahideen were stranded in Mohallajat area. He says that persistent air raids and shelling are being carried out on the Mujahideen positions. He also said that the stranded Mujahideen are putting up tough resistance despite shortage of food and arms and ammunition. Both sides have reportedly suffered heavy casualties. Many civilians including women and children were also killed in the fighting (Radio Report—Urdu: January 18, 1988).

There are reports of more clashes between the Soviet troops and Mujahideen in Afghanistan. Here is VOA correspondent in Islamabad, John Shultz:—

The big Mujahideen group which was besieged by Soviet and Afghan forces for nearly two weeks in the west of Qandahar has now broken the siege and launched a successful counter-attack. The reports about the breaking of the siege were received in Pakistan's border town of Quetta on Tuesday afternoon through re-

liable Mujahideen sources.

Earlier, only one person was said to have come out of the death trap in which several hundred Mujahideen had been besieged and their all supply routes were blocked. The fighting is continuing in the area called, Mohallajat which is spread from south to north-west of Qandahar. The reports indicate that Mujahideen had been occupying atleast 25 posts of communist troops in the Mohallajat area from mid of November to late December 1987. Later, the Afghan troops led by Soviets carried out counter-attacks in a bid to regain the posts. But there are conflicting reports about their success. However, the Mujahideen are said to have been stranded at a number of posts.

According to fresh reports which could not be confirmed from independent sources, 10 Mujahideen groups have been successful in their attacks at new security zone at northern end of Mohallajat.

The Mujahideen said they captured 6 posts after four hours' fighting and though they were being heavily shelled yet they could freely move to get food and fresh supplies (Radio Report—Urdu: January 27, 1988).

The Afghan Resistance Movement's leaders say that the Mujahideen have inflicted heavy losses of life on the Soviet troops and some Pakistani tribesmen supporting the Soviet-backed Afghan regime in Southern Afghanistan.

A Mujahideen Commander, Abdul Razaq says that his men hurled rockets on two Soviet positions and a camp of Baluch tribesmen, near the Southern city of Qandahar, killing or wounding some 46 Soviets. In the attack, 27 tribesmen were also killed while 30 others wounded. However, the report could not be confirmed by independent sources.

Pakistan press reports say that several thousand Baluch tribesmen had migrated to Afghanistan from Pakistan last year (News Urdu: January 31, 1988).

Zabul

Radio Kabul: The country's alert security forces prevented another crime by the extremists in the area around the district of Shinkay, Zabul province. A BIA military correspondent reported that the extremist elements, these enemies of our peace and prosperity, by laying down anti-vehicular mines on a public road used by the peace-loving people of this district, sought to shed the blood of our compatriots.

The alert security forces knew the extremists plans and took action, discovering and defusing these mines before they caused any

fearful incident (December 28, 1987).

Ghazni

Mujahideen sources: 25 December: Mujahideen attack a security post in Muqar sub-division. Eight Kabuli troops killed.

26 December: Mujahideen fire missiles on Soviet-Kabul positions in Aab Band and Bazak areas. Two tanks hit.

29 December: Mujahideen attack a mobile force near Muqar town.

Five tanks and a number of other vehicles were destroyed in a missile attack on battalion headquarters in Muqar town on Kabul-Qandahar highway on January 8. Twenty-five Kabuli troops were killed or wounded, including 3 officers. A cinema hall, club and conference room were destroyed.

On the following day, January 9, the Mujahideen attacked another army 'centre' on the Kabul-Qandahar highway in Qarabagh. Similarly, they hit a supply depot and a police 'brigade' establishment on January 11 and 13.

Radio Tehran: In another operation the Afghan Mujahideen destroyed a radar station and killed a number of communist troops in Ghazni province (January 13, 1988).

Mujahideen based in Ghazni province, destroyed two enemy tanks and some security check-posts and killed fourteen enemy soldiers. Yet in another offensive, 28 enemy soldiers were killed and 17 wounded (News Urdu: January 15, 1988).

BBC: Meanwhile, Afghan Mujahideen are reported to have intensified their activities in Ghazni area. They have been successfully carrying out attacks on a large number of government posts since the beginning of the year.

According to reports at least eight persons were killed when a Soviet aircraft dropped bombs in Ghazni (January 20, 1988).

Radio Kabul: In the light of the policy of national reconciliation, government sovereignty has been restored in a peaceful manner in 144 villages in the capital and surroundings of Ghazni province, and the sub-district of Dehyak, consisting of 58 villages and 62,000 people, has been proclaimed a zone of peace.

A spokesman of the national reconciliation commission of Ghazni province told the Bakhtar correspondent in Ghazni city that as a result of the work and activities of the members of national reconciliation commissions of Ghazni province, 340 families consisting of 2,590 persons, returned to their villages in the surroundings of Ghazni province. Furthermore, elections of the people's delegates in the local organs of the state power and administration have taken place in 308 villages.

The source added that as a result of many contacts by members of the national reconciliation commissions in Ghazni province with the armed opposition groups, 13 groups from 4 tribes which have 5,834 armed men, now observe the ceasefire. As a result of this, peace and calm has been restored in 728 villages of Ghazni province.

Among the returnees, 862 persons were introduced into the Armed Forces for service, 130 were introduced into government institutions, and 18 persons were introduced into educational institutions; and deferment for 6 months from military service were issued to 17 persons.

The source added that at this very moment, 432 national reconciliation commissions and 110 peace assemblies are operating in Ghazni province consisting of 1,956 members, including the delegates of former armed opposition groups (Dari Domestic Service: December 26, 1987).

Paktika

VOA: In Paktika province, Mujahideen shot down a Soviet made jet aircraft in Zuokh area. The most important airport of the province, Urgoon has been under the siege of the Mujahideen for several weeks. The siege is stated to be so tight that no aircraft could land there (January 27, 1988).

Paktiya

Mujahideen sources: According to a report received on January 1, approximately 30,000 Soviet-Kabul troops were engaged in over a month-long operation to open the Gardez-Khost road. Reportedly 60 aircraft (bombers, transport, reconnaissance, helicopters) aided and assisted them. Facing them were about 5,000 Mujahideen.

The Mujahideen shot down 7 helicopters in the "active areas of Paktiya".

They also claimed that 125 trucks, tanks, HMVs, APCs and other vehicles were destroyed or damaged, besides killing or injuring about 2,000 troops including over 100 "Russians".

Ultimately, about "one eighth part" of a convoy of some 450 trucks and oil tankers entered Khost cantonment on January 2 "in a very shabby condition".

The Gardez-Khost road passing through Satau Kandau, Mera Jan Dokan and Zadran, remains subject to harassing attacks by the Mujahideen.

Military experts assess that the Soviet occupation authorities need 20,000 troops to keep open the Khost-Gardez highway. In addition to

this, a brigade of army would have to be maintained each at Khost and Gardez. This would amount to engaging about ninth part of the occupation army in only one of the 29 provinces of Afghanistan.

4 January: Two MiG fighter bombers shot down in Saroti and Shamal areas.

Another aircraft downed over Mujahideen centre Jihad wal. It was one of the eight aircraft that attacked Jihad wal.

7-8 January: Mujahideen attack and destroy 16 army posts set up in Shamal, Saroti and Zadran areas. Mujahideen also fire rockets at Soviet-Kabul positions at Khal Basaat, Ali Shero and Tarigai.

About 100 conscripts surrender to Mujahideen.

9 January: Mujahideen capture an important position of "military significance" at Bak, north of Khost.

15 January: A number of "armoured carriers" blown up by anti-tank land mines at Nadir Shah Kot, a few kilometres from Khost.

VIRA: Fierce fighting continues between the Muslim Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul troops in the outskirts of Khost town along the Gardez-Khost highway. In Mira Jan area the Mujahideen destroyed 6 military vehicles and shot down a helicopter (News Pushto: January 3, 88).

According to the report, the Mujahideen have consolidated their positions in the mountains from where they are subjecting Khost city to rocket firing. Thus Soviet-Kabul troops are unable to use Khost airfield (January 14, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have carried out a number of operations in the outskirts of Zadran and Satto Kando, Khost, Ghazni, Parwan, Wardak and Ghor provinces.

According to the report, fierce fighting is continuing in Khost and Gardez areas. The garrison town of Khost is still under the siege of Muslim revolutionaries. The attempts by the Soviet-Afghan armoured vehicles to enter Khost city have been foiled (News Pushto: January 6, 1988).

Radio Bangladesh: In Afghanistan, the Mujahideen have regained control over the strategic Gardez-Khost highway in eastern Paktiya province.

According to reports, the Mujahideen during the last two days, moved on many kilometres on the highway (January 26, 1988).

BBC: The official radio in Afghanistan says the third convoy carrying relief supplies has arrived in the south-eastern garrison town of Khost, which has been under lengthy siege by Afghan guerillas. Kabul Radio said it was the largest of the convoys so far and food shortages in Khost have now been eliminated. Afghan guerillas continue to maintain that the siege has not been lifted and that fighting is continuing in the

area (News English: January 2, 1988).

The Soviet Union has again said that foreign military advisors are aiding the Afghan guerillas with as many as fifty involved in the fierce fighting now going on for the garrison town of Khost.

The Soviet newspaper PRAVDA said that the advisors were from the United States, France and several other countries. PRAVDA said that two of the advisors had been killed in recent fighting near Khost.

Earlier this week, the United States in response to another Soviet report denied any Americans were involved in the fighting in Afghanistan.

In the fighting around Khost, a report from Islamabad says the Commander of the Afghan guerillas besieging the town has been wounded. The guerillas leader, Jalaluddin Haqqani is said to have received wounds from an exploding shell.

Meanwhile, another guerilla commander says his forces last week captured an Afghan army post at Shuba about thirty-five miles off the Panjsher valley in north-eastern Afghanistan (News English: January 2, 1988).

A western journalist, who has just returned from the south-east of Afghanistan, has confirmed Soviet and Afghan Government reports that supply convoys have broken the guerilla blockade of the garrison town of Khost. The journalist who visited the battle front said that although, the convoys got through, they were considerably smaller than the Government in Kabul has been claiming. George Arney sent this report from Islamabad.

This first independent eye-witness report from the battle-front suggests that while Kabul has been exaggerating the extent of its successes, the guerillas have been suppressing the truth. The journalist who asked not to be named told the BBC that he has just returned from a short trip to Almara, which he estimated to be about ten miles from the garrison. From his hide-out in the mountains, he said that he himself saw an Afghan Army convoy of about forty vehicles, mostly canvas-topped trucks heading along the road towards Khost. He was told by his guerilla hosts that two smaller convoys comprising mostly armoured vehicles rather than trucks had passed the same way since new year's day. The journalist's account conflicts with the Kabul's Government's claim that so far, 726 trucks laden with over 5,000 tons of food have reached Khost since December, the 30th. However, it confirms Kabul's claim that the blockade has been breached. The guerillas meanwhile, have been insisting that their siege remains intact. Nevertheless, fighting is still heavy along the Gardez-Khost road. The journalist said that the main armoured column was still about forty miles from Khost at Mirajan bazar, while a lot of it still has not got over the Satto Kando pass

(Newsreel English: January 3, 1988).

The Soviet-Afghan forces have intensified their attacks on Mujahideen strongholds close to Pakistani border. Western diplomats in Islamabad say that the supply of military assistance to the deserted garrison city of Khost is being continued and on the other hand the Afghan Mujahideen facing new offensive in the outskirts of the city of Qandahar. George Arney reports from Islamabad.

Western diplomats in Islamabad say that hundreds of lorries loaded with rockets and other military equipment and large convoys of Soviet-Afghan troops were seen moving towards Kabul-Gardez highway last week. Some time the shipment of weapons comes under the attack of the Mujahideen. The supply, a large quantity of weapons, to the area is indicative of some ensuing major operation. Afghan Mujahideen have maintained two major and strategic positions between Pakistani border and Khost. One is called Jihad wall and the other Zawar. There has been no evidence so far whether these positions have been attacked or not.

Kabul government always tried to put pressure on the Mujahideen strongholds close to the border before resumption of Geneva talks. Diplomats say that a large number of armoured vehicles and reinforcement of troops of Kabul regime have been sent to Khost. Meanwhile the Mujahideen currently engaged in fighting in the suburban areas of Khost have come under intense pressure from the government troops (January 20, 1988).

VOA: Mujahideen commanders say that they have now withdrawn their forces from the immediate vicinity of Khost. They say they are no longer blocking communist convoys along the narrow 45 kilometres stretch that has been the scene of the fighting for nearly six weeks. They also say that they next expect a massive communist attack on their bases, south of Khost (News English: January 5, 1988).

In the eastern Afghanistan city of Khost, where Soviet and Afghan forces have recently broken the siege of the Mujahideen three rockets hit the airport.

The attack was carried out in the darkness of night when two transport planes of Afghan Air Force, carrying foreign correspondents, were about to take off from there. The correspondents say the rockets fell on both sides of the planes. The aircraft took off and the newsmen on board say that a third rocket was seen exploding near the runway soon after the take off (News Urdu: January 20, 1988).

Reports from Afghanistan say that Mujahideen attacked a military convoy on Gardez-Khost highway which resulted in the suspension of traffic on the road for whole day. Here is Irfan Ghazi, the VOA correspondent from Islamabad:—

The Khost-Gardez highway was opened two to three weeks ago by the Soviet forces. The Mujahideen commander in Paktiya province, Maulana Jalaluddin Haqqani reports that his men attacked a military convoy passing a narrow mountainous route half way between Gardez and Khost near Pakistan border. Eight vehicles were destroyed in the attack and traffic remained suspended on the road the whole day. A day before the attack i.e. on Tuesday night the Mujahideen fired fifty rockets on Khost garrison which ignited fires at various places in the garrison. The informers of Afghan Mujahideen said that three Afghan soldiers were killed in the attack (January 22, 1988).

Reports received from Afghanistan say that the Mujahideen have regained the control of some portions of the highway linking Gardez with the war affected town of Khost.

VOA correspondent in Islamabad reports that the Afghan media have published reports which indicate that the government troops are going back from the important military posts along the highway which they had captured after weeks of fighting recently. Here is Nazakat Ali Khan with details of the reports:—

A possible change in military strategy was made public in a broadcast on Sunday night. The broadcast said the government troops were withdrawing following the assurance of the tribal leaders of Zadran valley that they would keep the highway open. It may be added that Zadran is situated between Gardez and Khost. The operation for breaking the siege of Afghan Mujahideen and opening the Gardez-Khost highway was centre of the attention of international media. In this connection, the Mujahideen and Afghan government troops had fought a big war about which some people even say that it was the severest fighting in eight-year old Afghanistan war. During the siege of the Mujahideen, the Khost garrison depended for its requirements on air supplies. But in the mid of November 1987, this source of supply was also disconnected to a large extent and very critical situation had emerged. In late November 1987, the Soviet-led offensive was launched but the siege could be broken only three weeks ago and then the first military convoy reached Khost.

Soon after the fighting came to an end, an eye-witness reported that the Afghan government was apparently endeavouring to strengthen its achievements which included establishment of military posts at ten to fifteen kilometres distance in Zadran valley.

According to another report, the Mujahideen commander in Pak-tiya province, Jalaluddin Haqqani has said that his men have been con-

trolling the Zadran valley. He said they made this achievement as a result of successful attacks over military posts during the third week of January. He also said that the Mujahideen have also destroyed two camps and atleast thirty military vehicles in the clash while three Mujahideen were also killed and five wounded.

The complicated, ambiguous and mostly unintelligible situation that prevailed during the eight-year long war in Afghanistan could be pointed out through the fact that Jalaluddin Haqqani is the tribal leader about whom the Radio Kabul says, he himself requested the withdrawal of government troops from the Zadran valley (Radio Report—Urdu: January 26, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The delivery of foodstuff and consumer goods to Khost division is continuing. BIA reports that another convoy consisting of two hundred and twenty vehicles carrying one thousand five hundred and forty tones of goods arrived in Khost on January the 11th (News English: January 13, 1988).

Some journalists of western countries have gone to Paktiya province and visited certain areas such as Syed Karam. They also visited certain places of Gardez city. Bakhtar News Agency has reported that these journalists called on the elders of Khost district and also had contacts with the representatives of workers. They also saw with their own eyes that food commodities and blankets etc. were available in the city. All these were made available in Khost area when the insurgents were defeated. They also had talks with the representatives of Gardez city (News Baluchi: January 16, 1988).

TASS: The operation to lift the siege of Khost, a city in eastern Afghanistan, launched by Afghan and Soviet troops in November 1987, has been successfully completed.

Counter-revolutionary gangs that for nearly nine years controlled a mountain road linking Khost with the administrative centre of Paktiya province, Gardez, were routed and pushed away from the strategic highway.

The first convoy of food has arrived in Khost.

The operation was held in two stages. At the first stage, Afghan Army units, backed by Soviet troops, penetrated through two lines of defence manned by dushmans (as counter-revolutionaries are called in Afghanistan) and captured the Satu Kandau Pass.

Hostilities were then suspended in keeping with a decision of Loya Jirga, (Grand Assembly) held in Kabul at that time, in order to find a peaceful solution to the conflict between the government and armed units of the extremist Pashtun tribe of Zadran.

The secretary of Paktiya's Committee of the PDPA, Anwar, des-

cribed to the TASS correspondent the causes of the conflict and attempts to settle it:—

“The Zadran tribe, numbering about 120,000 people, was always opposed to the central authorities in Afghanistan. Following the April revolution, anti-government sentiments in the tribe, intensified under the influence of hostile propaganda.

Armed units sealed the road between Gardez and Khost which crossed the tribal area, preventing the government from providing the Khost region's population with food and goods.

Two years ago, power in the tribe was seized by Mullah Jalaluddin, a stooge of counter-revolutionary leader Yunis Khalis. Jalaluddin established virtual dictatorship in the tribe, dealing ruthlessly with anyone who showed readiness for compromise with the authorities.

The Zadran area was literally stuffed with arms and munitions, which were sent from there to gangs operating in various parts of the country.

Proceeding from principles of humanism, it was decided to eliminate the counter-revolutionary stronghold around the road to Khost. Most vigorous attempts were being made to agree with Zadrans on the platform of national reconciliation: Letters were sent to the tribe and to Jalaluddin personally, truce envoys were sent.

Nevertheless, talks failed to bring about any results before the operation and during the twenty day ceasefire between its second stage.

The counter-revolutionaries in fact rejected the negotiations, a step inspired, according to available information, by the leaders of Afghan rebel groups based in Pakistan”.

A group of Soviet journalists, in Gardez to cover the course and completion of the operation, arrived to a command post of Afghan-Soviet troops on Satau Kandau on December 28.

By that time, we were told by spokesman of the Afghan Commander General Imamuddin, only ten kilometres separated units marching from Gardez and Khost. The remaining 100 kilometres of the highway had already been cleared of bandits and mines had been removed.

The dushman lost up to 2,000 men killed and wounded during the fighting, Imamuddin said. Large quantities of weapons and munitions, food and medicines were captured.

The extremists, taking advantage of the 20 day ceasefire, had removed from their depots at least half of weapons, being aware that lengthy resistance would be impossible, the Afghan general observed.

Asked about the quantity of arms seized, Imamuddin said that no precise figures were as yet known. Information was being added up. What was known was the number of rocket projectiles—100,000, shells for mountain anti-air guns—30,000, fire cartridges—more than two million.

Retreating, the dushmans left behind tens of rocket launchers, recoilless field-guns, SAM's, heavy and light machine-guns.

We had an opportunity to travel along the cleared road and visit one of the strongholds of Jalaluddin's group, Sharanah. On approaching Sharanah, we were struck by the number of caves and individual structures housing depots of the bandits.

Dust and cold were the strongest impression from the 40 kilometres journey on top of an armoured vehicle along the twisting mountain route. Every kilometre or two we encountered Afghan or Soviet posts, "road blocks" guarding the road: the clearing of areas adjoining the road is still continuing. At roughly the halfway point we saw a bulldozer blocking the road and Afghan soldiers carrying spades and crow-bars. A regiment of engineers and sappers was engaged in repairing the road along which trucks carrying goods for Khost were due to pass. We were told by senior Captain (Aziz-ul-Haq), who was directing the work, the sappers were filling the shell craters and putting up supporting walls. In recent days, he said, the regiment has restored 34 sections of the road, rendered 1,750 mines harmless, and removed 17,000 cu.m. of earth from blockages.

After we had travelled approximately 1 and ½ hours we were met by a representative of a Soviet unit controlling the Saran area. "While previously you have been travelling along a totally safe route," Major N.A. Samusev said, "we now are turning to the right off the road towards Saran. Things are still tense there. After 1,400 hours, when the sun is shining into our eyes, the dushmans beginning shelling the regiment's position with rocket projectiles. You need to be careful".

Approaching Saran, we were struck by the number of caves and individual structures housing the stores of the bandit formations. The contents of many of them had been taken away towards the Pakistan border, and some underground stores had been blown up. Along the road there were broken cars, bulldozers, and even armoured personnel carriers belonging to the bandits. Here, too, there was shrapnel from rocket bursts. "The dushmans launched them from the range over there," our guide said, pointing. "They do not spare rockets; the supplies from Pakistan are steady. Pakistani troops remain deployed along the border to intercept remnants of counter-revolutionary gangs fleeing Afghan territory. We found this out from intercepted radio messages.

Having learned about the forthcoming arrival of journalists, the servicemen of this forward battalion had collected samples of weapons that had been seized in recent days. Lying near the soldiers tents in a pile were machine guns, grenade launchers, rocket projectiles, and mines.

"You must hurry if you want to see the house where the headquarters of Jalaluddin himself was situated," the journalists were told by N.A. Samusev. It turns out that several days ago this house and the stores located there had been discovered by a reconnaissance group.

The first few kilometres along the ravine where Jalaluddin's house, a hospital, and dozens of stores are located, we covered in an armoured vehicle. We stopped outside the dushman's hospital, it being dangerous to go any further on the armoured vehicle, since the mines have not yet been swept. The counter-revolutionaries had evacuated all the hospital's personnel to Pakistan. However, they had not had time to take away the medical supplies, instruments, and equipment. Around the house where the hospital was located, the field doctor said, the most efficient and up to date medicines lay on the ground. On the requisition forms, packages of tablets, and dressings was written: "made in France," "Made in Britain," and "Made in USA"... We also found several books, mainly in French. On one of them was written: "I wish Max a successful fulfillment of his mission in Afghanistan. Abdul Husayn". It also had the signature of, to all appearances, the first owner of the book, "Faysal Rahman, a relative of Jalaluddin." We were shown photographs that had been discovered in the hospital. One of them depicted a man and a woman, Europeans in Afghan national dress. Another showed dushmans in US made gas masks.

Much property had been moved toward the Pakistani border.

We walked three and half kilometres to Jalaluddin's headquarters, following one another's steps. We came to a building from where the "commander-in-chief of all Mujahideen forces in Paktiya" sent out his orders.

The title had been given to Jalaluddin by the leaders of Afghan counter-revolutionary formations from the so-called alliance of the seven. The commander of the 8,500 strong bandit unit fled to Pakistan.

The house looked quite ordinary. A plaque pinned at the entrance read: "centre." Nearby there were two caves, used as depots. According to intelligence agents, many munitions, including American mines, were found for the first time. They bore the year of manufacture—1987.

Weapons including hollow charge projectiles for grenade launchers, ball and mercury grenades, rocket projectiles of several types, modern optical devices for machine guns and mountain guns, and mines of all

calibers, were placed at the entrance to one of the caves.

All the weapons were manufactured in the West. Crates from Stinger and Blowpipe rockets were also found near the depot. The rockets had probably been carried away by dushmans.

Unfortunately, we did not manage to view the trophies in more detail. We had been ordered to leave the dangerous zone, since the shelling was due to start shortly. Returning after dark to Satau Kandau, we saw in the mountains along the road the lights of scores of campfires. Standing around them in the cold evening the defenders of the highway were warming themselves.

On the following day, when we visited the command post again, a report came: "The road has been cleared throughout." The first convoy left Gardez for Khost at 6 a.m. on December 30, 1987. It was welcomed by Khost residents in the afternoon on the same day.

General Imamuddin, who became our good acquaintance, said, "The operation is over. We are now to find and destroy the last dushman depots and secure safe traffic between Gardez and Khost as individual extremist groups may try to attack convoys".

The dushmans, the general said, quoting intercepted radio messages, boasted that they still controlled the road. "But you have seen everything for yourselves, having covered most of the highway. As to losses, I can say the following: Fewer than one hundred Afghan soldiers were killed throughout the period of the fighting. The Soviet friends had minimum losses, too".

The blockade of Khost has finally been lifted. Nearly 24,000 tones of necessary commodities, including food and oil products, will be delivered to the city within a month (TASS: December 31, 1987).

Ningarhar

Mujahideen sources: 25 December: Mujahideen fire long-range rockets and BM-1 missiles on Jalalabad airport and 'Russian' camping grounds as Samarkhel and Ghanikhel.

26 December: Mujahideen attack security posts in Sarobi, Khushk and Tauda Cheena regions of Shinwar division.

27 December: Mujahideen attack security posts in Nazian killing 8 men including 2 officers.

29 December: Soviet-Kabul troops attack Mujahideen positions near Kagga. Landmines laid by Mujahideen account for an advancing tank and another military vehicle.

30 December: Mujahideen attack a security post at Sherzad. Two tanks hit with rockets.

A helicopter shot down in the same area.

On January 11, Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul troops at Dakka, 8 kilometres from Torkham, killing 6 Kabuli troops.

While the Mujahideen were observing a ceasefire in connection with the burial of the Red Shirt leader Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in Jalalabad, the Soviet-Kabul forces tried to take undue advantage of it and launched calculated attacks on Mujahideen positions in Nazian and Maro areas on January 21-22. Their attacks began with aerial reconnaissance and bombardment of Mujahideen positions leading to appearance of armoured vehicles on tracks. It took the Mujahideen determined effort to frustrate this cowardly violation of the ceasefire by the Soviet-Kabul troops. Bombing and shelling by the Soviet-Kabul troops could be heard at Torkham at a distance of several kilometres on the Pakistani border. The Mujahideen retaliated by hitting Jalalabad cantonment with missiles.

VIRA: Mujahideen in a series of successful attacks caused heavy losses in men and material to the Soviet-Kabul troops in Katawaz. Later in retaliation, the enemy troops launched land and air attacks on the positions of the Mujahideen. During these clashes two tanks were destroyed and two helicopters shot down. Two Mujahideen were martyred and five others injured.

Mujahideen also attacked a large military camp in Khogiani area as a result of which 30 troops were killed or injured. In these operations, 12 military vehicles including tanks were destroyed (News Pushto: January 18, 1988).

Mujahideen conducted rocket attacks on the government installations in Jalalabad city and in retaliation the Soviet-Kabul troops subjected the civil population of Jalalabad to heavy shelling causing heavy losses to the people.

The Afghan Mujahideen also attacked a military convoy of the Soviet-Kabul troops killing nine Soviet-Kabul troops (News Persian: January 30, 1988).

VOA: One report says that in a rocket attack on Jalalabad airport on 18th January the Mujahideen destroyed two helicopters and killed 4 Afghan and 8 Soviet soldiers.

Meanwhile, a leader of Mujahideen resistance asked the guerillas to suspend their war activities in Jalalabad area on the occasion of burial of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in Jalalabad. He said the operations should be kept suspended till completion of the funeral. He added that the decision has been taken under Islamic spirit (Radio Report Urdu: January 22, 1988).

All India Report: Atleast 15 persons were killed and more than 40 wounded in two massive bomb blasts some 5 kilometres away from

Jalalabad in Afghanistan yesterday.

Fifty cars and two buses which were following Badshah Khan's funeral cortege were completely damaged.

One explosion took place in a bus and the other in a car park. The funeral ceremony, however, continued unaffected (News English: January 23, 1988).

Kabul New Times: Eight families consisting of 65 persons returned recently to Shinwar district, Ningarhar province from Pakistan.

The returnees were rendered necessary assistance by the NR commission of the province and resettled in their home towns (KNT: January 2, 1988).

The criminal extremists, murderers of our thousands of innocent compatriots, once again showed their ugly faces by committing another shocking anti-Islamic and inhuman terroristic act at the funeral of late Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan the great leader of Pushtoos and an outstanding figure of the path of freedom and peace, on Friday (22 January 1988).

While thousands of our compatriots, our Pushtoon brothers from across the border and foreign guests had gathered at the funeral of Fakhre-Afghan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in Jalalabad, the extremists resorted to an unforgivable act by planting explosives in the vehicles parked there.

As a result of these explosions eight participants at the funeral were martyred and forty seven others severely wounded. The wounded were immediately rushed to hospital.

The citizens of Jalalabad and all peace-loving forces condemned the perpetrators of this terrifying act. They called it an inhuman and anti-Islamic act of the extremists, particularly at the funeral of Pushtoon leader who was an indefatigable fighter of peace, freedom and justice (BIA: January 25, 1988).

Radio Kabul: An armed group comprising 36 persons active in Kama district of Ningarhar province has given up its activities and announced to support national reconciliation policy. The military correspondent of the Bakhtar News Agency reports that members of the armed group were warmly welcomed by the members of the national reconciliation commission and local citizens. In his speech, the leader of the group on behalf of his colleagues assured full cooperation for the success of the national reconciliation policy (News Urdu: January 30, 1988).

Kunar

Mujahideen sources: 2 January: Mujahideen intercept a 'mobile

force' at Baru Tangi. A heavy vehicle seized.

5 January: Mujahideen attack security posts at Jadeed Qala, Sar-e-Pul, and Nawababad. A number of Soviet-Kabul troops killed and arms and ammunition captured.

Mujahideen capture a security post at Qala-e-Sar.

Thirty Soviet-Kabul troops killed or wounded, including an officer of the rank of major.

11-12 January: Mujahideen attack the provincial capital, Asadabad. During skirmishes with the 9th Brigade of Kabul Army, both sides suffered casualties. The regime troops killed and injured were transferred to Kabul and Jalalabad in atleast ten helicopters. A large ammunition depot/oil reservoir was destroyed.

13 January: Mujahideen ambush a Soviet-Kabul military convoy advancing towards the besieged Barikot garrison. Two tanks and 2 other vehicles were hit and a number of Soviet-Kabul troops killed. The convoy was compelled to pull back.

VIRA: The Mujahideen attacked military camps of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Chagha Sarai area in Kunar province where 1,500 Soviet and 1,800 Kabul troops were deployed. Heavy losses in men and material were inflicted on the enemy (News Persian: January 25, 1988).

The Mujahideen destroyed two military posts and killed 12 Soviet-Kabul troops in Kunar province (January 30, 1988).

Radio Tehran: According to an IRNA report, the Afghan Mujahideen launched attacks on the Soviet-Kabul troops in Kunar and Faryab provinces killing 250 Soviet-Kabul troops. They also set ablaze an oil depot and an arms godown of the enemy.

According to an IRNA report the Afghan Mujahideen attacked a military base of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Assababad, Kunar province on the 17th of the current month (January 21, 1988).

BBC: Afghan Mujahideen sources report another operation in Kunar, eastern Afghanistan. According to the report, eight hundred rockets were used on military positions and provincial capital on Sunday night. Mujahideen claim to have inflicted heavy losses on them (Current Affairs-Pushto: January 20, 1988).

VOA: The Mujahideen sources in Ningarhar province say that large numbers of Soviet-Afghan military units are amassing at Asadabad and Asmar, in Kunar, east of Ningarhar. According to these sources it appears that the communists are planning to launch a large scale operation to release their besieged garrison of Barikot. As in the Khost, a road in the northern area leading to Barikot also passes through an eighty kilometres narrow valley which has been blocked by the Mujahideen for the last eight years (Radio Report: January 10, 1988).

In Afghanistan, a joint Mujahideen force has attacked several major military targets in and around the capital of Kunar province near the Pakistani border. As we hear in this report from VOA's John Shultz in Islamabad, the huge rocket and mortar attack is said to have caused major damage that could have large military implications:—

An eye witness just arrived on January 18, in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar is confirming separate reports of a devastating series of attacks which began Sunday at 5:00 p.m. and continued until 2:00 in the morning. They were aimed at a Soviet Special Force Centre, the provincial airport, a Soviet motorized Brigade camp and the Afghan Army's 9th Division Headquarters. These places are in and around Asadabad near Pakistan. Mujahideen claim they used 800 rockets plus mortars and other heavy weapons. They estimate as many as 500 communist troops were killed or wounded.

Their attack came soon after a three hundred vehicles convoy entered Asadabad from Jalalabad. An eye witness reports extensive fire and secondary explosions at ammunition and storage depots all around the city. Asadabad has become a major staging area for nearly a month in what some say is a big offensive build-up to relieve Barikot further north. As was Khost, Barikot has been dependent on air supply for most of the war. Convoys must move through narrow mountainous passes full of natural ambush points to reach either city (Radio Report English: January 18, 88).

Kabul New Times: One person was killed and one seriously injured as a result of the rocket attack by criminal extremists in Nau Abad and Tasha-e-Ulia villages of Kunar province. A large number of residential houses were also destroyed.

The people of the villages strongly condemned in a gathering the savage and anti-Islamic act of the extremists (KNT: January 10, 1988).

An armed extremist group engaged in robbery and creating panic in the Sarkani district of Kunar province was crushed by security forces.

On the request of NR commission and the people of the district the security forces entered the region observing ceasefire and asked the group to lay down their arms. But the group opened fire in response.

In the resulting exchange the group members including its leader Habibullah were killed. Also one rocket launcher and nine other weapons plus a large quantity of ammunition and US-made communications set were seized by security forces (KNT: January 14, 1988).

Residential houses in Damkelay, Kheirullah, and Pashad villages of Kunar province were subjected to surface-to-surface rocket attack by extremist groups.

Five persons including women and children were wounded and 15 houses and five shops destroyed in the shelling. The congregational mosque of Damkelay village was also damaged.

According to another dispatch from Herat, two persons were killed and one severely wounded on Monday morning in mortar shellings on the Noor Hospital by extremist criminals (KNT: January 24, 1988).

Provinces Bordering USSR

Badakhshan

VIRA: The Muslim Mujahideen in an attack on Faizabad airport in Badakhshan province captured 15 personnel of the security post in the airport area. In this operation airport installations were damaged resulting in suspension of flights for a week. In retaliation, the fighter planes of Kabul regime bombarded the suburban areas around Faizabad airport as a result of which 22 innocent villagers were martyred (January 3, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Under a Presidential decree, 64 prisoners were released from a jail in Badakhshan province today. At a function held on the occasion, one of the prisoners, representing his other fellow prisoners, pledged full cooperation and support to the government in the maintenance of peace and security in their areas (News Pushto: January 15, 1988).

Takhar

Mujahideen sources: 22 December: Two Mujahideen killed in a clash with regime security forces at Khawaja Ghar.

22 January: Three Soviet and 9 Kabuli soldiers killed during a Mujahideen attack on Talqan, provincial headquarters.

Radio Kabul: According to a report of the military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency, counter-revolutionary elements shelled three villages of Takhar province, due to which five of our innocent compatriots were killed while five shops and five houses were destroyed.

The mosque of Band Keli was also damaged in this rocket shelling (January 19, 1988).

Kabul New Times: Talajat, Makhmel Guzar, Byshah, Afghanistan, Safiha Nawabad and areas of Yangi Qala villages of Takhar province were declared as peace villages in a jirga held in Yangi Qala. The secretary of the party committee of Yangi Qala district explained at the jirga the significant role of the peace jirga, and a number of elders expressed their readiness for realisation of national reconciliation policy

(KNT: January 12, 1988).

Kunduz

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen attacked Kunduz airfield on November 9, 1987. A helicopter and 2 tanks were hit with rockets.

On January 5, the Mujahideen in Dashti Archi district destroyed six vehicles and killed 46 troops.

On January 17, 53 "communist militants" killed 2 of their own officers and joined the Mujahideen in Khanabad district.

Soviet aircraft bombarded residential areas and Mujahideen positions, killing 2 "locals" and 40 camels.

Radio Kabul: An armed group comprising eight persons led by Allahyar has joined the government side in Hazrat Imam district of Kunduz province. The report adds that members of the Provincial National Reconciliation Commission and government officials welcomed them (News Urdu: January 6, 1988).

A group of seven armed men led by Mohammad Azam who was for sometime engaged in armed activities in some regions of Khanabad district surrendered their arms to the security forces January 13 and joined the process of national reconciliation (News English: January 15, 1988).

Baghlan

Mujahideen sources: The Mujahideen captured a strong Kabul military garrison at Burka, Baghlan province on December 24, 1987. In the operation which lasted only few hours 10 troops of the regime were killed, 10 were wounded and about 100 captured, reports received on 15 January stated.

Mujahideen casualties included 11 martyrs and 22 injured. The Mujahideen seized two tanks, three mortars, eight heavy machine guns, 60 light weapons, one RPG-7 rocket launcher, two communication sets and "large quantities of ammunition", foodstuffs and other items.

The operation took place under the command of Abdul Hay Haqjo, the general commander of Jamiat Mujahideen in Baghlan. In addition to local Mujahideen some units from Nahrin, in central Baghlan, and Ishkamish (Takhar province) also took part in the operation.

The Burka Garrison was located halfway between Nahrin and Ishkamish, and was manned by the Kabul army and Khad agents.

2 January: Urban guerillas kill two Russians in Baghlan city.

3 January: In a clash with Soviet servicemen in Baghlan city a Mujahideen 'commander' killed.

Mujahideen attack a mobile force in Chehal Satoon area destroy-

ing a tank.

8 January: Mujahideen ambush a convoy carrying, among others, the governor of Baghlan province in Kinjan sub-district, about 65 km from Baghlan city. A tank and a RPG were destroyed.

Mujahideen captured a number of 'senior Kabul regime officers', including Sultan Mohammad, governor of Baghlan and Ghulam Farooq Pashar, provincial General Secretary of PDPA. Mujahideen said the prisoners would be tried by the legal authorities in the Liberated Territory.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries occupied the Burka garrison situated in Baghlan province in the north-west of Afghanistan. The Afghan Mujahideen killed 20 communist troops and injured several others during this operation. They also arrested 100 troops and seized a large number of tanks and various kinds of arms from the communist troops (News Urdu: January 1, 1988).

Radio Bangladesh: Afghan Mujahideen claim to have arrested a communist party leader, provincial Governor and other government officials in a rocket attack on a highway in northern Baghlan province. According to a report, in their rocket attack on a military convoy, Mujahideen destroyed two armoured vehicles and captured many government officers including the Baghlan Governor, Sultan Mohammad, Party Chief of the Northern Zone, Ghulam Farooq Pashar and the provincial Chief of the Secret Service. These people are being interrogated at a Mujahideen base (News Urdu: January 12, 1988).

Kabul New Times: Armed groups who still continue their activities hostile to the people's government would inevitably come to a sorry end said Naqeebullah, leader of an armed group that recently joined the national reconciliation process in Baghlan province.

The policy of national accord has won the full support of our compatriots, and armed groups who still reject reconciliation shall meet with annihilation as people's enemies, he added:

Until recently, we also thought that with the continuation of war and subversive activities we could advance. However the people's will for peace and reconciliation compelled us to rethink and join the process of national accord.

Members of my group have pledged to defend peace and security and contribute to rebuilding schools, mosques and health centres ruined in Baghlan province (KNT: January 9, 1988).

Samangan

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen carried out attacks on targets in Samangan city, provincial capital, on December 27, 1987. Two 'admi-

nistrative buildings' were hit. A tank and an armoured car were also destroyed. Similarly, in fighting in Hazrat Sultan sub-division 8 Soviets were killed against 3 Mujahideen.

Radio Tehran: The Mujahideen an operation in the central city of Samangan province, attacked two Kabul government buildings and killed 12 Soviet-Afghan troops besides damaging buildings (January 21, 88).

Radio Kabul: Under the Presidential decree, 32 prisoners were released from the jail in Samangan province today. At a meeting held on the occasion, one of the prisoners Ghulam Hazrat on behalf of his colleagues, expressed full support to the government in making success the national reconciliation policy (News Pushto: January 10, 1988).

Balkh

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen attacked the Charbolak sub-district headquarters, located inside Mazar-e-Sharif city, on December 13, 1987. Two military posts were destroyed. Mujahideen captured an officer and five soldiers. They also seized 14 AK-47s.

On December 14, 1987, Mujahideen attacked Halqajar and Bodana military posts. The operation lasted for two days. One tank and two other vehicles were destroyed and one ammunition depot was set ablaze. Six regime soldiers were also captured.

Around mid-December, Mujahideen attacked the Mazar Fertilizer factory, airport and enemy base in Sar Asyab by heavy weapons.

In retaliation the enemy launched an attack on Mujahideen positions in Shulgar district on December 18, 1987. The fighting lasted for six days. Five Mujahideen were killed and 20 were wounded. About 50 Soviet-Kabul soldiers were killed and two tanks and one truck were destroyed.

The Mujahideen also fired missiles on the cantonment area of Mazar-e-Sharif in Balkh province on January 17, 1988.

VIRA: Troops of the puppet Kabul regime entered Sholgarrah and Nahree-Shahi areas of Balkh to build a new military base there. The Mujahideen attacked them. During the clashes which lasted for five days 50 enemy troops were killed and 30 injured. Five others were made captive. Two posts of the communist regime were captured by the Mujahideen, the report adds. In those clashes seven Mujahideen were martyred and a number of others were injured (News Pushto: January 24, 1988).

Muslim Afghan revolutionaries mounted an attack on the Balkh province a few days ago killing or wounding 106 Soviet-Kabul troops. They also made captive ten enemy soldiers and captured a large number of arms and ammunition (January 21, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Under a Presidential Decrees 373 prisoners were released today from a jail in Balkh province.

Bakhtar correspondent reports that at a function held on the occasion, Ahmed Shah and Ghulam Sakhi spoke on behalf of their fellow prisoners and expressed full support to the government in the maintenance of peace and security in their respective areas (News Pushto: January 16, 1988).

Jozjan

Mujahideen sources: 3 January: Mujahideen attack a security post at Zaka (somewhere in Jozjan). Ten regime soldiers surrendered; a number of others killed or wounded. The building was demolished.

15 January: Mujahideen blow up a stretch of natural gas pipeline near Qarqain on Ammu river. The Soviets repair the pipeline in 3 days.

VOA: In their successful operations against the Soviet-Kabul troops in Shiberghan area, the Mujahideen caused considerable losses in men and material to the Soviet-Kabul troops in the recent past (January 2, 1988).

Faryab

Mujahideen sources: The Mujahideen attacked provincial headquarters, Maimana, on January 10. In the fighting, the 35th Brigade of Kabul Army suffered heavy losses. About 200 Kabul and local militia troops joined the Mujahideen alongwith their arms and ammunition.

Mujahideen also attacked the townships of Shirin Tagab and Daulatabad, North of the provincial capital, on January 15. They destroyed 3 tanks and killed about 20 regime soldiers. The Mujahideen themselves lost fighter 4 killed and 17 injured.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen attacked the positions of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Faryab province on January 10, 1988.

During the attack, 200 Kabul regime troops joined the ranks of the Mujahideen (News Persian: January 21, 1988).

Radio Kabul: "Extremist" elements fired mortar shells at the residential areas of the Maimana city of Faryab province seriously injuring three civilians and damaging an agricultural institute and Jamia Mosque in the area (News Pushto: January 28, 1988).

TASS: Over 11,000 people have downed arms and declared support for the government's national reconciliation policy in the northern Afghan province of Faryab over the past nine months.

Thousands of refugees have returned there from Iran and Pakistan over the same period.

Several dozen villages have been set free peacefully. A total of 141

reconciliation commissions have been set up and are active in the province. A total of 282 persons have been released from prisons (TASS, Kabul: January 21, 1988).

Badghis

Mujahideen sources: The Mujahideen attacked the military garrison and the airport in Qila Nau, on January 17. Several Soviet troops were killed and injured and two tanks destroyed. The same day, the Mujahideen destroyed a tank of a mobile force in the border town of Bala Murghab. In the course of operation ten Soviet Puppet troops were killed and injured and a Mujahid martyred.

VIRA: According to a report, the Afghan Mujahideen launched attack on the positions of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Qala-e-Nau in Badghis province early this week. In the attack, heavy losses in men and material were inflicted on the Soviet-Kabul troops (January 30, 1988).

Radio Tehran: In a series of operations the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries inflicted heavy casualties on communist troops in Badghis province (News Urdu: January 29, 1988).

VOA: According to a delayed report from north western province, Badghis, Mujahideen attacked on a Soviet military convoy which had just entered Afghanistan from the Soviet side at Marsik. Mujahideen said they used heavy weapons in the fighting that started on December 19, 1987 and which continued for 24 hours destroying 7 tanks and 11 trucks, killing all on board. They said that next day, 8 Soviet helicopters and 2 jet aircraft bombarded their positions and nearby villages killing 23 villagers and wounding over 50 others (Radio Report English/Urdu: January 13, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Bakhtar News Agency correspondent reports that 4 armed groups have joined national reconciliation programme in Badghis district. These groups were involved in anti-government operations (News Urdu: January 21, 1988).

Kabul New Times: Six villages of the Muqur region in Badghis province were declared as peace villages in tribal jirga held there.

At the jirga a number of elders and chieftains of villages expressed their readiness to implement the national reconciliation policy (KNT: January 13, 1988).

Provinces Bordering Iran

Herat

Mujahideen sources: The Mujahideen launched a series of attacks against targets in the districts, and around the city of Herat, from De-

cember 15 to 21, 1987. In these operations Mujahideen destroyed 9 tanks and APCs and killed or wounded about 60 Russians and regime troops.

During the operation 6 Mujahideen were killed and 13 were wounded. Russian planes bombarded civilian population in retaliation to the attacks. The casualties were high, especially in the Pashtoon Zarghoon district.

A second phase of Mujahideen operations in Herat began on December 24, 1987. In these operations 8 military posts of regime's troops, in Bandi Salma of Chesht districts were captured.

December 27 1987: Mujahideen attack militia posts in De-Pushta area. Forty-three Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and wounded.

Mujahideen attack security posts around the city of Herat. One tank was destroyed.

The Mujahideen conducted a major attack on an army centre in a fort inside Herat city on January 2. More than 20 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or injured and the fort received extensive damage. Besides, 6 tanks, 5 armoured personnel carriers, 3 jeeps and 9 small army vehicles were destroyed. The arsenal in the fort also caught fire.

The Mujahideen attacked an army post in Ahmadabad area of Herat on January 3 as a result of which four troops were killed and a truck carrying foodstuff was captured by the Mujahideen.

On January 8, the Mujahideen made a rocket attack on an army post inside Herat city. Three Soviets and 4 Kabul troops were killed.

On January 9, in operation against a military convoy on the Herat-Islamqila highway, 20 APCs trucks and motorcycle were destroyed.

On January 12, Mujahideen fired rockets and missiles on a Soviet army camp at Doab near Herat city. Fifteen Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or injured and two Mujahideen martyred.

On January 20, the Mujahideen hit a convoy in Sabool Rozanak area along the Herat-Islamqila highway. Three vehicles and one tank were destroyed, 15 enemy troops were killed and a number of them were wounded.

According to another report "one of the most vicious militia commanders", Noorudin Charabuy was killed by Mujahideen in Herat province on January 23. The well-planned operation was carried out in Seya Khula area of Islamqila near the Iranian border. Two of Noorudin's companions were wounded.

VIRA: Fierce fighting has broken out between the Afghan Mujahideen and the Soviet-Kabul troops in the outskirts of Herat city. In the course of combat, the Mujahideen entered the city of Herat and launched attacks on security posts of the Soviet-Kabul troops in the city and

set on fire three supply depots.

The Soviet-Kabul troops resorted to bombing and heavy shelling on the positions of the Mujahideen as a result of which a number of civilians were injured.

Another report from Herat province says that an armoured personnel carrier of the Soviet-Kabul troops was blown up by a mine planted by the Mujahideen in an area near Herat city last Tuesday as a result of which 10 persons aboard the vehicle were killed (News Persian: January 9, 1988).

During successful operations carried out by the Mujahideen in Ilias Karez, Deh Buri Qala, Dashak Qala, Dashak Gar and Kohzer (ph) areas of Herat, heavy casualties were inflicted on the Soviet-Kabul troops. In Ilias Karez area, a military post of the enemy was set on fire. One military vehicle, one tank and motorcycle were destroyed. Thirty-three enemy troops were killed by the Mujahideen in these operations, the report added.

Similarly as a result of mine blasts in Kohi Dastan area of Herat province recently, one jeep and one military truck were destroyed and 6 government troops were killed including a militia officer (News Pushto: January 15, 1988).

Two commanders of the communist militia troops were killed as a result of mine blasts, planted by the Mujahideen on Herat-Islamqila road recently. A Toyota car, carrying Nooruddin and Ata, commanders of the communist troops was also destroyed.

According to another report the Muslim Mujahideen in a successful operation attacked a military convoy of the joint troops in Andraskan area of Herat recently. A tank and a military vehicle of the Russians were destroyed. Six Soviet troops were killed and three others injured.

Later in retaliation, the Soviet fighter planes bombed surrounding villages of Andraskan, which resulted in heavy material losses to the innocent people of the area (News English: January 31, 1988).

Radio Tehran: A group of Afghan guerillas based in Nimruz province mounted an attack on one of the important centre of Herat city inflicting heavy losses in men and material on the communist troops. Other reports say that an enemy truck ran over a mine in Faizabad area of Herat province on Tuesday last as a result of which ten people were killed (News Urdu: January 7, 1988).

In an operation against Soviet-Kabul troops, Afghan revolutionaries destroyed the building of the customs office in Islamqila last week (January 15, 1988).

VOA: The Afghan Mujahideen say that they have stormed fourteen military posts of the Soviet-Afghan army in Herat province.

In a message to the Mujahideen leaders said that their forces captured four Soviet posts and ten Afghan Militia posts during the ten day fighting which started on January 7 (News Urdu: January 21, 1988).

Agence France Press: More than 1,000 Mujahideen rebels are mounting successive attacks on key Soviet-Afghan positions near Herat, notably an airport, an oil pipeline, and cement works, witnesses said on return from the western city.

The Muslim rebels have launched attacks in regions throughout Afghanistan in the last few weeks, notably at Herat and in the southern Qandahar area, to tie up troops and prevent the pro-Soviet-Kabul regime from sending reinforcements to the besieged eastern garrison town of Khost, observers said.

"The Mujahideen are attacking Afghan Army posts every day", two French travellers told AGENCE FRANCE PRESS on return from the Herat combat zone.

Some 1,500 rebels of the moderate Jamiyat-e-Eslami Mujahideen force, commanded by Ismail Khan, 40, were launching continuous raids on the pipeline south of Herat, the airport and an important cement works, Patrick Brisay and Laurent Vaudry said after spending more than three months in Afghanistan.

"They (the Mujahideen) are attacking the Soviet-Afghan lines only two kilometres (one and a quarter miles) outside Herat city", they said, adding that they saw rebels "pump out a large amount of petrol from the pipeline before withdrawing and set fire to it".

The garrison of Ghurian, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of Herat, was surrounded by rebel forces and had not received fresh air supplies for four months, the travellers said.

The Soviets had not launched counter-attacks but were pinned down defending their positions with artillery and mortar fire, said the travellers, both members of the French humanitarian group Raid Guild, who went to the Herat region to buy supplies for several needy Afghan villages.

"The villagers have a lot of weapons, but food is scarce," they said. (Text Hongkong AFP in English: January 4, 1988).

Bakhtar (Kabul): Individuals associated with extremist groups perpetrated yet another crime, leaving (word indistinct) families in grief for their endeared ones.

By dropping mortar shells on residential houses in Herat province, the professional murderers killed nine people, including children and women, and severely wounding 27 others, including 7 children. The wounded were immediately taken to the hospital (BIA: December 29, 1987).

Farah

Mujahideen sources: 2 January: Mujahideen run-over an army camp at Boqal. Forty Soviet-Kabul troops killed or injured and the rest of them fled. Five tanks/armoured cars and a heavy machinegun blown up.

6 January: A truck blown up by mines in Qila Kah sub-division.

9 January: Seventeen regime troops belonging to a security post at Takhseerak, south of Farah city, reach a Mujahideen centre in a dramatic switch over. They brought along a truck loaded with arms and ammunition.

10 January: An armoured force invades the Mujahideen centre—where 17 regime soldiers had come the previous day—but had to beat a retreat in the face of severe rocket counter-attack. On the outskirts of the Mujahideen centre the Soviet-Kabul force lost 2 tanks on a mine field.

VIRA: Mujahideen ambushed a convoy of Soviet-Kabul troops in Samalzi area (ph) last week destroying three tanks and one military vehicle (January 22, 1988).

Radio Tehran: Kabul government troops attempted to recover lost positions in Zerkoh area but were forced to retreat after suffering 530 casualties and loss of about 25 vehicles including tanks over a period of a month.

According to a report of IRNA, the Mujahideen captured 9 military posts of the Soviet-Kabul troops and 180 Kabul troops joined their ranks (News Persian: January 3, 1988).

VOA: Afghan resistance fighters say Soviet and government air strikes have destroyed a village in south western Afghanistan in retaliation for rebels attacks two weeks ago. Rebels commanders in Farah province say the village near the town of Delarm was levelled on the 15th of January. All of its residents were killed and every building destroyed or damaged. The attack, they say, came two hours after rebel units inflicted heavy losses on Soviet commandos in that region.

Unconfirmed reports say that the Mujahideen killed 30 commandos and injured 17 others in the attack (News Urdu/English: January 27, 88).

Kabul New Times: Twenty-two prisoners were released from jail on January 12, in Farah province under the Presidential Decree of Amnesty. At a function held on the occasion, the prisoners expressed their gratitude and said that they would cooperate for establishing peace and security in the country (KNT: January 13, 1988).

Central Provinces

Bamiyan

Mujahideen sources: The Mujahideen fired missiles on the Bamiyan cantonment on the night of January 3 when a party in connection with the celebrations of the anniversary of the Soviet intervention was in progress. Some installations received extensive damage. Some Soviet-Kabul troops are also reported to have been killed or injured. A Mujahid was killed and four others injured.

Ghor

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen captured a security post at Kandwal on December 28. Thirteen troops were killed and 7 injured.

On January 3, Mujahideen attacked Chaghcharan. Four Soviets were killed. A quantity of arms and ammunition and a wireless set were captured.

On January 5, in Khawaja Chakali areas 12 troops were killed or injured. The Mujahideen also blew up a tank.

VIRA: Mujahideen destroyed one post of the communists and captured two militia men in Ghor. Six others were killed.

In retaliation, the Soviet fighter planes bombed the positions of the Mujahideen, of whom two were martyred and 15 injured (News Pushto: January 22, 1988).

Uruzgan

(Nil report from all sources).

Kabul and Adjacent Provinces

Kabul

Mujahideen sources: 15 December 1987: Mujahideen eliminate security post at Paich, Sarobi district.

Soviet-Kabul forces bombard the villages of Lal Khel, Nasiri, Haji Bakhshi Aqay and Aki Khuja in Shakardara districts. In the fighting which thus sparked off a tank, and 2 trucks were destroyed and 13 Soviet-Kabul soldiers killed.

17 December 1987: Mujahideen fire 122mm rockets on a 'Training Battalion' at Charasyab and oil depot in Kabul.

18-19 December 1987: Mujahideen fire 122mm rockets on Pul-e-Charkhi jail, the 4th Armoured Division and Radio Kabul.

26 December 1987: Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul security post at Kamki in Arghandeh. The post fell to Mujahideen yielding a large

quantity of arms and ammunition. Forty Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or wounded. The post had lately been established to block a Mujahideen supply route.

27 December 1987: Mujahideen continue hit-and-run attacks on military installations and regime transport in and around Kabul city, including Khairkhana Mena, Kabul Airport and Mirbachakot.

A MiG fighter shot down with surface-to-air missile in the 'vicinity' of Kabul city.

A tank destroyed at Khroti village.

28 December 1987: Mujahideen fire 107mm rockets at Soviet army base at Shaidan. A tank and a jeep were believed hit and several soldiers killed.

29 December 1987: Mujahideen attack a supply convoy along the Kabul-Paghman road. A number of vehicles hit.

30 December 1987: Mujahideen fire 107mm rockets at the Pul-e-Charkhi jail in order to help prisoners escape. A number of prisoners did escape in the confusion and a big fire thus caused.

On January 4, 1988, Mujahideen fired rockets on military installations in Kabul city. On the same day, they attacked security posts at Qila Rustan, Goga Manda and Yousaf Khel, destroying atleast 2 tanks.

On January 7, Mujahideen attacked a military force proceeding towards Paghman from Kabul. Two military vehicles were destroyed by rocket fire. The Soviet-Kabul force was compelled to return to Kabul.

The Mujahideen also attacked a military camp at Qargha, a Kabul suburb, hitting an ammunition depot which exploded.

On January 8, the Mujahideen attacked targets in Sarobi district. At Shahidan a number of Soviets were believed to have been killed.

On January 14, a mobile group of Mujahideen fired BM-1 rockets on Soviet security post in Hazara Baghal area of Kabul city.

VIRA: An officer and four troops of the communist regime were killed during a Mujahideen attack in Saidpur Mohammad Shahmeena on 26th December 1987. Similarly Afghan Mujahideen launched an attack on the Kabul airport last month causing heavy damage to the airport (News Persian: January 20, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen launched an attack on the positions of Soviet-Kabul troops in the outskirts of Kabul province on the eve of the anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. A number of occupant troops were killed.

The report says that the Mujahideen attacked the positions of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Shakardarra area of Kabul province causing heavy losses in men and material. They also captured a huge quantity of arms and equipment alongwith a wireless set (January 11, 1988).

Another report says the Mujahideen killed forty-one enemy personnel and captured one hundred forty-five others in their attacks on another base of the joint communist forces north of Kabul last week (January 11, 1988).

In an attack on a military convoy in Paghman, the Afghan Mujahideen caused heavy losses in men and material to the Soviet-Kabul troops.

In another operation the Mujahideen captured a military post of the Soviet-Kabul troops between Kabul and Paghman (January 30, 88).

Radio Jeddah: Muslim Afghan revolutionaries have shot down a Soviet transport plane north of Kabul (January 7, 1988).

VOA: Diplomatic sources have reported a number of war activities of Mujahideen in Kabul and its surroundings. They say that five rocket attacks were carried out in different parts of Kabul between January 4 and 10. The fighting is continuing in Shakardara and Guldara areas, north of capital and this fighting has forced hundreds of old and children to take shelter in Kabul city (Radio Report Urdu: January 12, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The security forces captured two anti-aircraft missiles, alongwith launching stations in the outskirts of Paghman Ulaswali, when they raided an arms depot of the counter-revolutionaries, at the call of the people of that Ulaswali. The security forces also captured a huge quantity of arms (News Pushto: January 5, 1988).

Another one hundred and thirty prisoners were released from Pul-e-Charkhi jail recently.

More than three thousand and three hundred political prisoners have so far been released only from Pul-e-Charkhi jail following the announcement of general amnesty by the country's President (News Pushto: January 22, 1988).

Three armed groups led by Ghulam Farooq, Muhammad Nabi and Azimuiddin have joined the national reconciliation programme in Mir Bachakot (ph) district of Kabul province. They have joined the national army units in order to maintain peace and security in the area (News Urdu: January 26, 1988).

Parwan

Mujahideen sources: 22 December 1987: The Mujahideen shot down a military transport aircraft near Charikar. Pilot bails out and reaches Bagram airbase.

23 December: An APC destroyed in Charikar.

24 December: The Mujahideen hit at Bagram airbase. Flames could seen rising from the airbase.

27 December: The Mujahideen repeat attack on Bagram airbase. A number of aircraft were believed to have been hit. Flames could be seen rising from the target area.

28 December: The Mujahideen continue attacks on Bagram and the chain of security posts round it.

Soviet aircraft bombard villages around Bagram.

Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul positions in Mohammad Agha district.

On January 1, the Mujahideen claimed hitting 3 Soviet-made aeroplanes near Bagram base.

On January 5, the Mujahideen destroyed a security post at Babz Kari near Charikar.

On January 7, the Mujahideen renewed attacks on Bagram airbase, picking out with ground-to-air missiles any aircraft that came within their range. They had started this latest series of attacks on Bagram in December and claimed to have taken a total of 8 aircraft.

VIRA: Mujahideen have shot down one military transport plane and one helicopter of the puppet Kabul regime in Bagram area of Parwan province recently. The transport plane was downed in Arghamande (ph) area and the helicopter in the north-west of Bagram airport. Similarly the Muslim Mujahideen in a series of operations at Kabul-Charikar and Jabal-Siraj-Charikar highway destroyed ten enemy tanks. Military posts of Soviet-Kabul troops were attacked by the Muslim Mujahideen and one of the posts was captured (January 7, 1988).

Mujahideen shot down a fighter plane of the communist troops in Parwan province. The aircraft was hit with a missile as it took off from the Bagram airbase. The agency report added that a helicopter and another aircraft of the Kabul regime were also shot down in Jabal Saraj area (January 19, 1988).

Radio Tehran: Afghan Mujahideen attacked a military base of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Charikar, Parwan province on 5th January as a result of which at least four Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was captured (News Persian: January 17, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The vigilant security forces in a timely action have foiled the criminal plan of extremists in the suburbs of Parwan. The military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency reports that the people of Bagram and the National Reconciliation Commission informed the security forces of the presence of the ten ground-to-ground missiles, installed by the extremist elements to disturb the peaceful life of the people in that Woleswali. The security forces by observing the ceasefire entered the area and seized the missiles (News Pushto: January 3, 88).

The extremist groups committed another inhuman crime by killing three persons including two children and one woman. Bakhtar correspondent has reported that the criminals fired ground-to-ground missiles at residential area of Gul Bahar in Kohistan Wolaswali last night, as a result of which three persons were martyred and three others were injured. According to the report as a result of the un-pardonable crime of the extremist groups, a Jamia Mosque of Shahat Koti was destroyed and several houses were also damaged (News Pushto: January 10, 88).

Similarly, 750 hostile armed persons have decided to join this programme in Parwan province. About one hundred families, comprising 548 persons, have returned from abroad to their homes in the province. Seventy-eight villages of the province have peacefully come under the government control since the announcement of national reconciliation programme. Local bodies elections have been completed during the same period in 130 villages (News Urdu: January 28, 1988).

Kabul New Times: Charikar city and its suburbs were declared peace regions through a vast jirga held yesterday.

Hundreds of ulema, clergymen, chieftains and representatives of the residents of Charikar city attended, the jirga.

After the verses from the Holy Quran were recited, chairman of national reconciliation commission of Parwan province read out the resolution of the jirga on proclamation of Charikar city as a peace region.

Two participants spoke on behalf of others and voiced readiness for the realization of the NR policy and establishment of peace in the region.

According to another report, Qalai Kuli, Janqadam and Ghulam Ali villages of Bagram district, Parwan province were also declared as peace regions through peace jirgas (KNT: January 16, 1988).

Kapisa

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen of Panjsher captured the important Kabul regime garrison of Shaba on December 26, 1987.

The operation against the Shaba garrison was launched early in the morning by 60 Mujahideen and lasted only 25 minutes. In the operation, 24 enemy troops were killed and 113 were captured. Mujahideen also seized the following items:—

1. 3 tanks
2. 6 mortars
3. 14 heavy and light machine guns
4. More than 100 AK-47s
5. 13 sets of R-105 communication equipment

6. Large quantities of ammunition and other items.

In this operation 2 Mujahideen were martyred and 12 were wounded.

It should be noted that the Shaba garrison was protected by hundreds of mines, and 7 mountain top posts which were also captured.

At the same time Mujahideen launched attacks against enemy targets in other parts of Panjsher in order to keep the enemy from reinforcing Shaba. In these operations, 5 more posts, one in Manjawoor, two in Parandeh and two in Hesai Doo, were conquered by the Mujahideen. They captured 32 klashnikovs one PK machine gun and a large quantity of ammunition.

Mujahideen also destroyed the enemy's mountain-top-posts in Tawak Anaba and Feraj. An ammunition depot in Rukha, a Russian communication centre in Anaba and the enemy's base in Rahmanikhail were set ablaze.

Mujahideen casualties in the operations (other than Shaba) included five martyrs and eight wounded.

In early January Soviet-Kabul forces tried six times to re-establish some of the military posts which were captured by Mujahideen in Shaba in last December 1987. Finally because of the extreme pressure put on Mujahideen they were able to set up two posts on January 4. However Mujahideen recaptured the two posts. In another operation by the Mujahideen nine Russian soldiers were killed on January 4 while they were taking supplies to their post in Tawakh. A tank was destroyed by a land mine explosion on the road to Tawakh.

Mujahideen also shot down a SU-25 plane in Mookuni valley of Panjsher in the first week of January.

VIRA: The Mujahideen in a series of successful operations have captured a base of Soviet-Kabul troops in Panjsher valley recently. During the operations 140 enemy troops were killed and 149 troops were made captive. A source of the Mujahideen has announced that the military centre of Onabe, in the valley was also captured by the Mujahideen (News Persian: January 14, 1988).

BBC: As the fighting continues in Afghanistan for control of the eastern garrison town of Khost, Afghan guerillas say they have captured an army post in the Panjsher valley north-east of the capital Kabul. It is described as the guerillas first successful action in the area for two years. George Arney reports:—

The local commander of the Jamiat-e-Islami guerilla party claimed that he and his men captured an Afghan army post at Shadar, about thirty-five miles up the Panjsher valley one week ago. Several mountain outposts were also over run. The comman-

der claims that 24 Afghan troops were killed and over a hundred taken prisoners for the loss of only two guerillas. The guerillas also seized three armoured vehicles. Several smaller Afghan army posts further down the valley were attacked at the time. It is the first time in two years that guerillas in Panjsher have carried out a noteworthy operation, although last September, Afghan troops vacated their garrison in Kushkoh (ph) about 5 miles further up the valley. It is possible that the attack was intended to divert attention from the fighting at Khost (January 2, 1988).

VOA: Meanwhile, the sources in Peshawar said that on Wednesday the Mujahideen units at Panjsher valley, north of Kabul attacked the Soviet military bases in south of the valley, and destroyed a large military base in Allahabad area. In the fighting Mujahideen killed forty-one Afghan troops and captured one hundred and forty-five. The Mujahideen also destroyed a Soviet communication centre and three military posts in other three operations on Wednesday (January 10, 1988).

Laghman

Mujahideen sources: 4 January: The Mujahideen shot down two Soviet-made helicopters near Mehtarlam. One of the helicopters was taking off from Mehtarlam: and, the other bombarding a Mujahideen centre in the neighbourhood.

16 January: A group of Soviet helicopters flying from Nooristan towards Barikot in Kunar were fired at and one of them downed while still in Laghman. Three bodies were found in the wreckage.

18 January: Soviet aeroplanes attack a Mujahideen caravan carrying supplies to partisans. One jet fighter and helicopter were shot down. Mujahideen lost 8 mules.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have shot down a fighter plane and a helicopter of the Kabul regime in the Nooristan area of Laghman province (January 29, 1988).

Radio Kabul: A group of extremist elements which indulged in looting on the Kabul-Laghman highway, was wiped out by the vigilant security forces yesterday. It may be recalled that the people of Ali Khan village of Karaghai Woleswali in Laghman province informed the security forces about the presence of the extremist elements in the area and demanded action against the extremists (News Pushto: January 1, 1988).

An armed group of anti-government terrorists, which was involved in criminal activities in Alingar Ulaswali of Laghman province was recently wiped out. The security forces also captured a huge quantity of weapons from the group.

Logar

Mujahideen sources: 9 December 1987: The Mujahideen fight a one and a half hour battle with heliborne troops who tried to ambush them in Shiga Zera (between Khoshi and Dubandi). One Soviet helicopter shot down. Mujahideen lost 5 fighters.

24 December: Commander Gul Mohammad Khan alongwith another Mujahid killed while clearing land-mines near Mohammad Agha town.

25 December: The Mujahideen attack district headquarters of Sayed Abad. Observation tower of the main administrative building destroyed and 10 soldiers killed.

27 December: The Mujahideen attack a large Soviet-Kabul military convoy near Kalingar while it was proceeding to Gardez from Kabul. The convoy consisted of about 400 vehicles and was protected from the air by 8 helicopters. A number of trucks and oil tankers hit.

On January 2, the Mujahideen attacked another Soviet-Kabul convoy in Mohammad Agha district while it was advancing towards Gardez in Pakiya province. Six tanks/armoured vehicles were destroyed.

On January 4, a military vehicle was destroyed by a land-mine at Alsahoor.

On January 9, the Mujahideen attacked Qutubkhel and an army camp at Pad Khawab. Three vehicles including a tank were hit.

On January 17, the Mujahideen fired rockets on Pul-e-Alam, the provincial headquarters. A Khad office and two army posts were hit and 12 soldiers killed.

On the same day, Soviet-Kabul forces shelled the rural areas of Khoshi.

VOA: Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad, today confirmed the reports of Mujahideen that the traffic of military convoys between Kabul and Gardez through Logar has been disrupted. This shortest road between Kabul and Gardez, passes through Chahar Asiab Mohammad Agha (ph) and Kolangar in south. Recently the communist troops and war equipment for the Khost battle were despatched through this 115 kilometres long route. Afghan sources in Kabul say that Mujahideen blockades and raids have made this road dangerous. The Mujahideen sources in Peshawar said last week that they raided military convoys between Mohammad Agha and Kolangar inflicting heavy losses on them.

Western diplomatic sources said that on January 5, a Soviet army convoy left for Gardez through this route but it had to return. Then on January 7, the Mujahideen blockaded the road from Kolangar to Gardez near Charkh and no convoy could pass through it for three days. On January 4, the Afghan troops returning from Gardez to Kabul said

that the Soviet troops were trying to set up new security posts on the road. In this connection, houses close to the road in the south of Chahar Asiab, were demolished (January 12, 1988).

Wardak

Mujahideen sources: 27 December 1987: The Mujahideen fire rockets on the provincial capital, Maidan Shehr damaging a number of buildings. Two government godowns were also destroyed.

28 December: The Mujahideen attack a military convoy on Kabul-Qandahar highway at Dast-Toop. Three vehicles, including a tank were hit.

31 December: The Mujahideen attack a security post on the fringes of Maidan Shehr.

A helicopter bombarding Mujahideen positions shot down in the same area.

1 January: The Mujahideen attack a security post in Gaidabad district.

Radio Kabul: A subversive armed group was recently wiped out in the suburban areas of Wardak province.

Bakhtar correspondent reports that when the peaceful people of Wardak province informed the local National Reconciliation Commission of the presence of the subversive group in the suburbs of Wardak, the security forces were ordered to enter into the area which asked the group to surrender. But when the group opened fire the security forces retaliated wiping it out alongwith its ring leader. Arms and ammunition were also seized by the security forces (News Pushto: January 16, 88).

4 — PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE THEMES

Radio Kabul

Given below are the major Kabul Radio themes in January 1988 in descending order of recurrence:—

1. Accusing the governments of Pakistan and US that by providing sophisticated weapons to Afghan partisans they are creating hurdles in the way of normalization of situation around Afghanistan.
2. Allegations against Pakistan government that it is acting against the constitution and interests of its people, it is engaged in hostile activities against her neighbours.
3. Highlighting Kabul's national reconciliation plan as a formula for settling regional disputes and solution of people's grievances.
4. Attacks on the personality of President Zia for allegedly serv-

ing US interests.

5. Proclaiming that the success of Khost operation had been a political and military achievement as a result of which the traffic has been opened on the road leading to Gardez and that all goods are now available in Khost at lower rates.

Radio Moscow

Given below are the major Moscow media themes in January 1988 in descending order of recurrence:—

1. Proclaiming that Soviet Union is sincere and honest in its pledge to withdraw its forces: and that it wants to stop bloodshed and see Afghanistan as an independent, non-aligned and neutral country.
2. Foreign intervention in Afghanistan, especially on the part of Pakistan, US, Western countries etc.
3. Supporting the Reconciliation Plan and Afghan government's efforts for development, peace, democracy and social progress.
4. Announcing that conducive conditions are being created by Ceasefire and Reconciliation Plan for conducting a final round of talks for settlement of Afghan Crisis.
5. Concern on Pakistan's acquisition of arms and its alleged designs to acquire nuclear capabilities.

APPENDIX — 1

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN JANUARY 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Human Losses

Soviet Casualties	:	192 killed and	119 wounded
Kabul Casualties	:	345 killed and	215 wounded
Soviet-Kabul Casualties	:	498 killed and	433 wounded
Defections	:	573 Kabul troops defected and 240 captured	
Mujahideen Casualties	:	94 killed and	185 wounded
Afghan Civilian Casualties	:	127 killed and	18 wounded

Material Losses

Soviet-Kabul Material Losses:—

Aircraft	11	LMGs	76	Security Posts	95
Helicopters	7	HMGs	39	Khad Offices	1
Tanks	88	Klashnikovs	691	Bunkers	13
APCs	41	Gas pipe line	1	Assorted weapons	145
HMVs	80	Rocket launchers	7	Food Depots	3
Trucks	36	Buildings	2	Cinemas	2
Jeeps	15	Motorcycle	1	Concrete bunkers	13
Oil Tankers	2	Rifles	9	Radar Stations	2
Wireless Sets	24	Mortars	17	Afghan currency	
Pistols	15	Militia residences	20		50,000
Oil Reservoir	3	Fertilizer godown	1	Munition Depots	20
Garrison	2	Barracks	13	Cartridges	50
Tape recorders	10				

Mujahideen Material Losses:

Livestock 8 mules

APPENDIX — 2

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN JANUARY 1988 SOVIET-KABUL (RADIO KABUL) SOURCES

Losses inflicted to ("Counter-revolutionaries")

Losses:

Killed	45	
Captured	Nil	
Returnees	2007	(Those availing amnesty voluntarily surrendering, changing allegiance and joining Soviet-Kabul ranks).

Members of armed groups surrendering: 782
 Prisoners released by Kabul regime: 1062

Mujahideen Material Losses:

Mortars	2
Assorted weapons	181
Bases/Hideouts	4
HMGs	16
Land-mines	5,666
Rocket Launcher	7
Boxes of HMG shells	50
Rockets	12,497
Klashnikovs	6
Horses	18
Large quantity of arms	5 times
Rounds of Ammunition	28,11,083
Shells	65
Missiles	64
Food depot	2
Reactive units	26
Artillery batteries	2
Sacks of Explosive	5

Loss inflicted by counter-revolutionaries:

Human Losses 23 Killed 44 wounded

Material Losses:

Houses 60 Mosques 6
 Shops 10

APPENDIX — 3

PROVINCEWISE ENGAGEMENTS IN JANUARY 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engage- ments	Provincial Capital	Engagements	
			Inside City	Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	1	Zaranj	—	—
Hilmand	1	Lashkargarh	—	—
Qandahar	22	Qandahar	8	6
Zabul	—	Kalat Gilzai	—	—
Ghazni	14	Ghazni	—	—
Paktika	4	Sharna	—	—
Paktiya	59	Gardez	—	—
Ningarhar	29	Jalalabad	3	—
Kunar	13	Chagha Sarai	2	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	2	Faizabad	1	—
Takhar	3	Taloqan	1	—
Kunduz	4	Kunduz	—	—
Baghlan	6	Baghlan	2	—
Samangan	2	Samangan	1	—
Balkh	13	Mazar Sharif	3	—
Jozjan	3	Shebergan	—	—
Faryab	5	Maimana	2	2
Badghis	2	Qala Nau	1	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	26	Herat	3	—
Farah	4	Farah	—	—
(Nimruz)	—	(Zaranj)	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	1	Bamiyan	1	—
Ghor	5	Chaghcharan	3	—
Uruzgan	—	Tarin Kot	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	50	Kabul	15	3
Parwan	26	Charikar	4	7
Kapisa	22	Mahmud-i-Raqi	—	—
Laghman	20	Mehtarlam	—	—
Logar	20	Pule Alam	1	—
Wardak	14	Koteasro	6	1
TOTAL	371		57	20

APPENDIX — 4

MUJAHIDEEN MOBILE & IMMOBILE TARGETS AND SOVIET-KABUL OPERATIONS IN JANUARY 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Mujahideen Targets		Soviet-Kabul Operations		Total
	Mobile	Immobile	Air	Ground	
Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	—	—	—	1	1
Hilmand	—	1	—	—	1
Qandahar	2	10	4	6	22
Zabul	—	—	—	—	—
Ghazni	4	10	—	—	14
Paktika	1	—	—	3	4
Paktiya	10	30	—	19	59
Ningarhar	1	22	4	2	29
Kunar	3	9	1	—	13
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	—	1	—	—	2
Takhar	2	1	—	—	3
Kunduz	2	—	1	1	4
Baghlan	5	1	—	—	6
Samangan	1	1	—	—	2
Balkh	1	8	4	—	13
Jozjan	1	2	—	—	3
Faryab	—	5	—	—	5
Badghis	1	1	—	—	2
Bordering Iran					
Herat	6	15	—	5	26
Farah	2	1	1	—	4
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	—	1	—	—	1
Ghor	1	4	—	—	5
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent					
Kabul	8	37	1	4	50
Parwan	9	8	—	9	26
Kapisa	4	13	2	3	22
Laghman	8	4	—	8	20
Logar	9	3	5	3	20
Wardak	2	9	—	3	14
TOTAL:					
	83	197	24	67	371

APPENDIX — 5

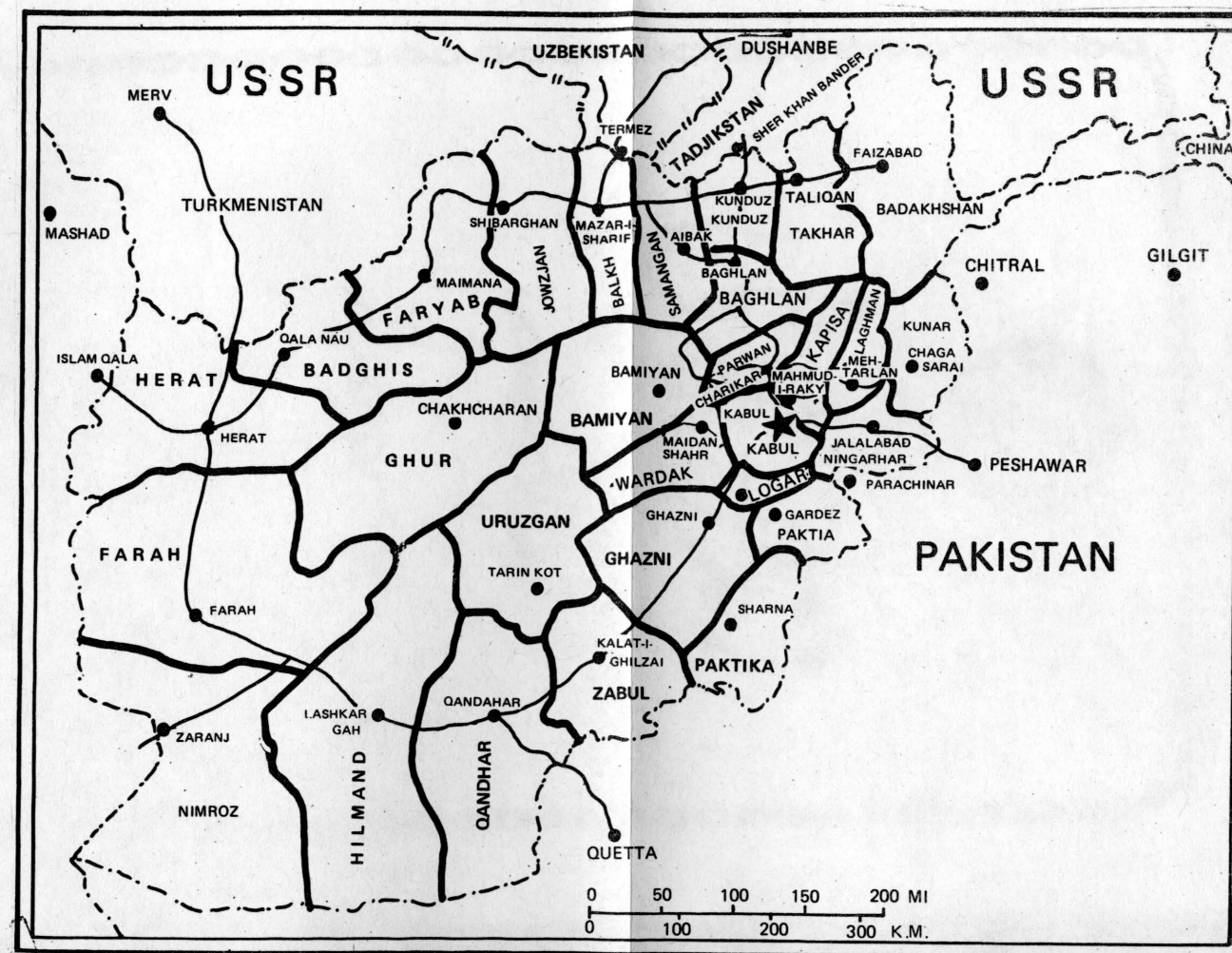
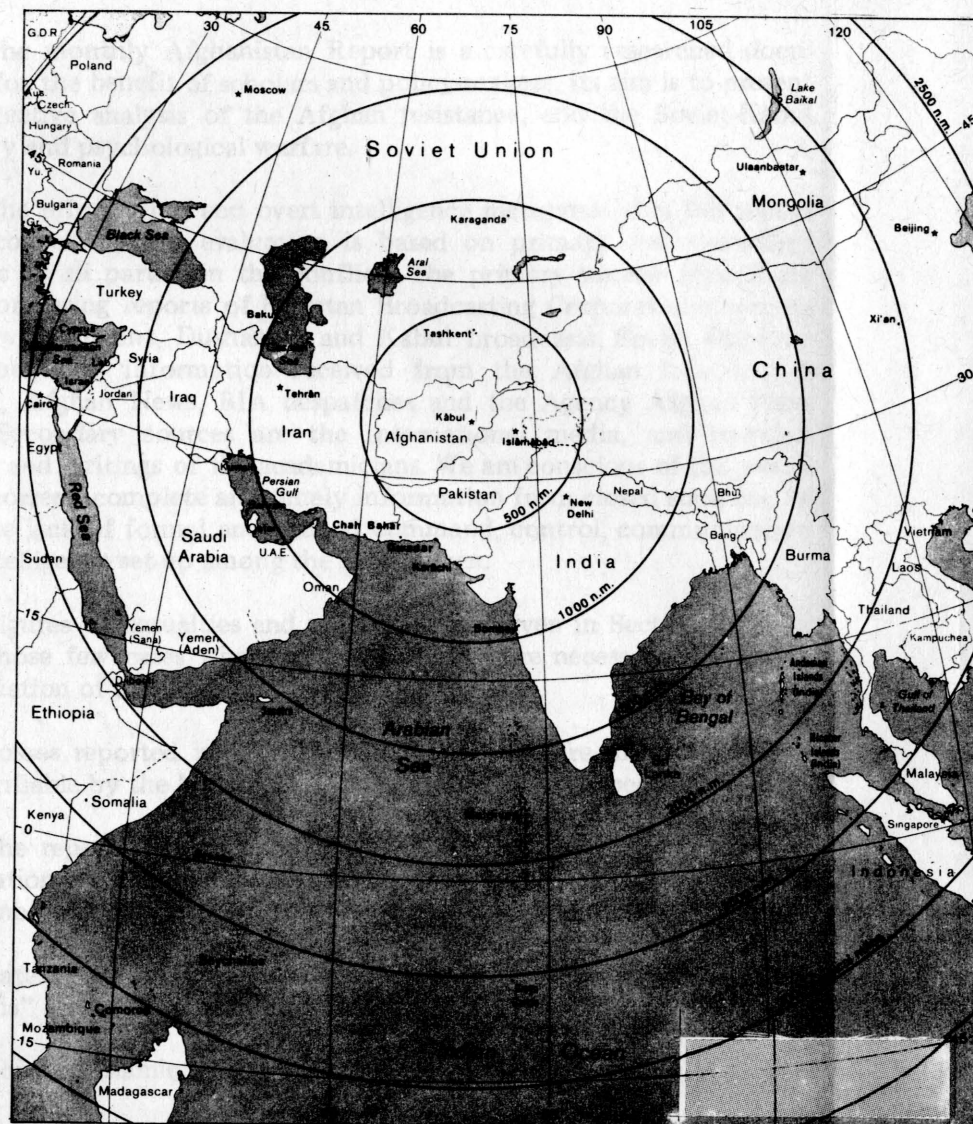
PROVINCEWISE SOVIET-KABUL SECURITY OPERATIONS AND RETURNEES IN JANUARY 1988 (Radio Kabul)

Provinces	Soviet-Kabul Operations	Counter-revo- lutionaries Action	Prisoners released	Returnees numbers	Members of Armed groups surrendered
Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	—	—	260	—	250
Hilmand	—	—	—	—	—
Qandahar	1	—	—	—	—
Zabul	1	—	—	180	—
Ghazni	1	—	—	—	—
Paktika	—	—	—	—	—
Paktiya	4	—	150	1740	—
Ningarhar	—	—	—	87	36
Kunar	1	5	—	—	—
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	—	—	64	—	—
Takhar	—	1	—	—	—
Kunduz	—	—	—	—	67
Baghlan	—	—	—	—	10
Samangan	—	—	32	—	60
Balkh	—	—	404	—	—
Jozjan	—	—	—	—	—
Faryab	—	1	—	—	—
Badghis	—	—	—	—	40
Bordering Iran					
Herat	—	3	—	—	—
Farah	—	—	22	—	—
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—	—
Ghor	—	—	—	—	—
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent					
Kabul	2	—	130	—	310
Parwan	1	—	—	—	10
Kapisa	—	—	—	—	—
Laghman	4	1	—	—	—
Logar	—	2	—	—	—
Wardak	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL:	16	14	1062	2007	782

APPENDIX — 6

AFGHAN CIVILIAN HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES JANUARY 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Location	Casualties		Houses des- troyed/ Damaged	Heads of Livestocks	Date
		K	W			
Qandahar	Mewand	80	—	12	—	22/12/87
Ningarhar	Mimla	23	18	13	—	11/1/88
Badakhshan	Faizabad	22	—	—	—	27/12/87
Kunduz	Shahrman	2	—	—	40	5/1/88
Herat	Adraskan	—	—	—	50	31/12/87
Herat	Mir Daoud	—	—	10	—	2/1/88
Parwan	Bagram	5	—	—	—	28/12/87
Logar	Pul-e-Alam	—	—	15	—	27/12/87
Logar	Khoshi	1	—	—	—	17/1/88
Total 9 Incidents in 7 provinces		133	18	50	90	



Mujahideen sources: Conflict reported during January 1988 in 27 provinces. Provinces from where no war report received: Uruzgan and Zabol.

Radio Kabul: Conflict reported during January 1988 in 12 provinces. These provinces are: Qandahar, Zabol, Paktiya, Kunar, Takhar, Faryab, Herat, Kabul, Parwan, Laghman, Logar and Wardak.

NOTES

The monthly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy-makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, and the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Soviet Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Information Centre, Afghan News, BIA despatches and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in Section 3 are in only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

Losses reported in "Soviet-Kabul" category are often physically not verifiable by the Mujahideen and therefore mostly speculative.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

Dates given in parenthesis in the chapter "Provincewise Survey Analysis" are of the actual broadcast.

Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (VOIR).

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during January 1-31, 1988. Appendices 1-7 also incorporate December 1987 incidents reported in January 1988.

II.— THE POLITICO-ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1 — MESSAGES AND MEETINGS

Messages

Messages on various occasions were sent to, received from and exchanged with the following countries: Bangladesh, Burma, India, Kampuchea, Laos, Romania, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, USSR and Zimbabwe (*KNT*, January 1988).

The Central Committee of the PDPA congratulates all Party members and sympathizers, friends and all esteemed countrymen on the 23rd founding anniversary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (*KNT*, January 2, 1988).

The General Council of the World Federation of Trade Union has sent a message to the central council of the Trade Unions of Afghanistan. The message says that WFTU fully support NR policy, proclaimed by the party and government of the Republic of Afghanistan for the cessation of war and bloodshed. It urges the USA to stop its financial and military aid to Afghan counter-revolutionaries (*KNT*, January 5, 88).

A message was received on January 21, addressed to the President Najibullah from Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, while over flying the territory of Afghanistan. Noting with satisfaction the meeting with President Najib on his last visit to Delhi, the message wished further success and good health for the President and prosperity to the people of the RA. It hoped that peace will be established shortly in the RA (*KNT*, January 23, 1988).

Meetings

Official talks began between Afghan and Kampuchean leaders on December 31, 1987, in Phnom Penh. President Najibullah from the Afghan side and Heng Samrin, General Secretary of the CC of PRPK and chairman of the state council of PRK from the Kampuchean side led the talks. The leaders of the two countries discussed matters relating to the expansion of cooperation between the two parties and states in various spheres. Special attention was devoted to various aspects of NR policy being implemented in Afghanistan and Kampuchea. The two sides also discussed international problems, including the situation in Asia and the Pacific (*KNT*, January 2, 1988).

The First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan Syed Amanuddin Amin, who is on a friendly visit to the Socialist Re-

public of Czechoslovakia met with the Prime Minister of the country. In this meeting, discussions were held on further expansion of existing economic and trade relations between the two countries. The Czech Premier expressed readiness for rendering all sided cooperation of his country in the establishment of joint projects in Afghanistan (Radio Kabul: January 25, 1988).

Dr. Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan received on January 20 in his office Academician Marchuk Gori Ivanovich, President of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Views were exchanged at the meeting on matters of mutual interest and expansion of academic cooperation between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. He also met Sultan Ali Keshtmand (*KNT*, January 21, 1988).

Prof. Felix Armacora, special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission on January 7, met Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Wakil spoke about important events and new development in connection with the realization of the NR policy in the country, since the first trip of Prof. Armacora in July 1987 to Kabul. Prof. Armacora also met members of the commission for drafting constitution and President of Crimes Department of the Ministry of Interior, views were exchanged on matters of mutual interest (*KNT*, January 9, 1988).

There has been a meeting in Kabul between President Najibullah and the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze who is there on a working visit. The meeting is reported to have centred on settling the situation around Afghanistan and on progress of the national reconciliation programme in that country (Radio Moscow: January 5, 1988).

President Najibullah met on January 14, Mr. Somander Kumar Banerjee, resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Mrs. Lina Hamdeh Banerjee, programme development advisor of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), in Kabul. In the meeting President Najibullah called for the further assistance of the organizations to the Republic of Afghanistan (Radio Kabul: January 15, 1988).

2 — POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Local Elections to be held soon

President Najibullah has announced that National and Local elections are to be held in the near future, and he urged opposition groups to take part. He said campaigning would begin very soon, but he gave no date for the elections (*BBC*: January 17, 1988).

Plenum of the CC of PDPA

A periodic plenum of the CC of the PDPA met on January 27. Najibullah General Secretary of the CC of the PDPA and President of the Republic of Afghanistan, presented the main report on the realization of the policy of NR and the undelayable tasks of the party under the constitution. Specifying the subsequent tasks of the party in the political, military, economic and social spheres and the foreign policy, President Najibullah said:

"We are obliged to serve our people honestly. We should love our people, the people who have become tired of war and demand peace from us. The realization of this demand of the people is the concept of the policy of NR, the concept of our activity and our life". The speech of President Najibullah was attentively listened to, and welcomed by the participants of the plenum. The plenum continued its work in the following five sections:—

- Section on PDPA and the armed forces in the conditions of coalition.
- Section on the consolidation of the PDPA and, combining its efforts with state organs and social organizations.
- Section on the economic policy of the PDPA, in the conditions of coalition and multi-party system.
- Section on the political-training work of the PDPA under the new conditions.
- Section on the foreign policy of the PDPA and development of inter-party relations.

One hundred and thirteen people spoke in the sections and presented their views and proposals (*KNT*, January 31, 1988).

Periodical Session of the Politburo

A periodic session of the Politburo of the PDPA CC was held on January 14 with a view to propagate the policy of NR on a world scale and to inform the writers and other cultural figures of different countries on NR in the Republic of Afghanistan. The Politburo recommended that the session of the secretariat of Afro-Asian Writers Association and the international symposium of Writers on NR be held in February in Kabul with the participation of the renowned writers of countries following the policy of NR. It was decided that an international festival of poetry entitled "Life, Peace and Reconciliation" be also convened. The Politburo discussed additional measures for eradication of illiteracy in the country and pointed out that fight against illiteracy, as one of the nations urgent tasks has not only social and cultural value but great political importance as well. Evaluating the work done in this respect as

positive, the Politburo noted that still weakness and serious deficiencies exist in "the struggle against illiteracy". The Politburo recommended that the concerned organs should take serious measures for removing these defects and stepping up the struggle against illiteracy. The Politburo also endorsed the establishment of a press centre under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for receiving foreign journalists, organizing fruitful work with them as well as purposeful dissemination of truth relating to our country and the process of national reconciliation. The Politburo also discussed a number of domestic and international issues (*KNT*, January 17, 1988).

Periodic Session of the Council of Ministers

A periodic session of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan was held on January 18. The results of the realization of state plan and budget, banking plans for nine months of the current Afghan year (begun March 21, 1987) and 30 legislative documents were scrutinized in the session. Mahboobullah Kushani, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the State Committee for Planning, Mohammad Kabir, Minister of Finance, Abdul Basir Ranjbar, General President of the Central Bank and Bashir Baghlani, Minister of Justice presented their reports at the session. Chairman of the state Committees, Ministers and Presidents of departments participated in the discussion. It was noted in the session that concrete achievements have been scored in the nine months of the current Afghan year in the socio-economic growth of the country. Sultan Ali Keshtmand, Prime Minister spoke and assessed the faults in work and implementation of targets in the state plan and budget. The Council of Ministers through a resolution directed the ministries, state committees and departments to implement their plans before the end of the year and to tackle all problems in the way of realizing the plan targets (*KNT*, January 19, 1988).

Session of the Supreme Commission for NR

An extraordinary session of the Supreme Commission for NR, attended by Dr. Najibullah was held on January 17 in Store Palace with Abdul Rahim Hatif, President of the NR and Chairman of the Commission in chair. The session was devoted to the first anniversary celebrations of the proclamation of NR policy. Najibullah delivered a comprehensive speech on the policy of NR and the achievements of this policy in different fields inside and outside the country, Abdul Rahim Hatif, presented a report objectively and critically assessing the performances of the Supreme Commission and its sub-commissions. Mohammad Hassan Sharq, Deputy Prime Minister and President of the State Committee for Repatriates, presented a report on the performances of the

concerned organ regarding the organization of repatriate's affairs, the activity, method of work, distribution of gratis aid, returning the properties and granting other rights to repatriates. Mohammad Bashir Baghlani, Minister of Justice, spoke on promulgation of laws, decrees and regulations after the proclamation of NR (*KNT*, January 18, 1988).

Session of the Coordination Commission of Law Enforcement

A periodic session of the Coordination Commission of Law Enforcement organs was held on January 27, at the headquarters of the attorney general. The session decided that as per the presidential decree No. 26, dated January 12, 1987, legislative documents which are not in conformity with the constitution should be reviewed. The session also decided that struggle should be intensified against the misusing of relief goods, the crimes of drug addiction, use and peddling of narcotics, bribery, embezzlement and misuse of public property. Full implementation of decree No. 128, dated July 11, 1987, of the RC should be considered (*KNT*, January 28, 1988).

Periodic Session of the Permanent Commission of Foreign Affairs of RC

A periodic session of the permanent commission of Foreign Affairs of RC of the Republic of Afghanistan was held on January 10 in Kabul. The session was held under the chairmanship of Haji Mohammad Samkani President of the permanent commission of Foreign Affairs of RC of the Republic of Afghanistan and participated in by Najmuddin Kawyani. Based on the previous plan, reports of the transport and civil aviation ministries, prepared about cooperation from foreign countries, international and non-governmental organizations, were evaluated in the session. The commission also asked the Transport and Civil Aviation ministries to improve and develop their activities as they had received enough assistance from abroad. Also this assistance should be used only in the related projects (*KNT*, January 11, 1988).

Presidential office has reported that a joint session of leading bodies of the PDPA, Toiler's Revolutionary Party of Afghanistan and Toilers Organization of Afghanistan was held and agreements reached in the session on working out a political platform of unity of leftist parties in the Republic of Afghanistan and on a number of other issues (*KNT*, January 11, 1988).

New Appointments to PDPA's Central Committee

The Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan held a plenum in Kabul on January 27. The General

Secretary of the PDPA's Central Committee, President Dr. Najibullah spoke in detail on the achievements of the national reconciliation during the past one year.

The plenum also discussed organizational matters and promoted member to the Politburo and the Central Committee, Zahour Rezemju to the rank of Secretary of the Party's Central Committee. It also appointed Wrak Dehqan, Khyali Karagar, Abdul Sallar, Abdul Khalil, Abdur Rauf and Mir Afghan Bawari as full-fledged members of the Party's Central Committee. Earlier, they were alternate members of the Party.

Amanullah, Jamshed, Rehmatullah Hamdard, Afzali, Abdul Mutalib, Ghulam Mustafa Yousafzai, Gul Rehman, Mohammad Hashim and Yar Mohammad were appointed as alternate members of the Central Committee.

The plenum appointed Rehmatullah Toofan, Hussain Karwan Abdul Aziz Saghri, Shah Mohammad, Abdul Ahad, Brigadier General, Amir Mohammad, Abdul Qadeer and Daud Mazyar as members of the Central Investigation Commission of the PDPA's Central Committee (Radio Kabul: January 28, 1988).

Eighth Anniversary of the Ministry of State Security Marked

President Najibullah attended on January 13, a session marking the eighth founding anniversary of the Ministry of State Security. Najib accompanied by Prime Minister Sultan Ali Keshtmand and Lt. Gen. Mohammad Rafi Defence Minister, were received by Col. Gen. Ghulam Farouq Yaqubi, Minister of State Security. Addressing the session, the President underlined the tasks of the staff of the policy of NR and the decisions of the second national conference of the PDPA and historic Loya Jirga. Col. Gen. Ghulam Farouq Yaqubi presented the work report of the Ministry of State Security. President Najibullah laid a wreath at the martyr's monument of the Ministry of State Security and then cut the ribbon to open the hall of honours and museum of the Ministry (*KNT*; January 14, 1988).

Victory of Khost Operation Marked

A successful operation launched by the units of armed forces for lifting the economic blockade of Khost division and reopening of Gardez-Khost highway for traffic was marked at a military parade, held in the revolution square of Kabul. Najibullah, President of the RA and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, extolled the heroic activities of soldiers and officers of the units who took part in the operations in Pakhtiya province and emancipated 40,000 people of Khost division from the economic blockade. He also inspected a guard

of honour on the occasion (*KNT*, January 20, 1988).

Achievements of NRP

Abdul Rahim Hatif, Chairman of the Central Council of the National Front and President of the Supreme Commission for NR in Afghanistan, stated in an interview to a BIA correspondent on the achievements of the policy of NR. He said "Over 116,000 compatriots have to date returned home since the proclamation of the policy of NR. Over 40,000 armed men of the opposition groups laid down their arms and came over to the side of the People's power. Close to 114,000 persons who were organized in 1,500 counter-revolutionary groups, are observing ceasefire and other provisions of the NR policy through signing protocols and peaceful negotiations, Around 3,370 NR commissions have been set up and hundreds of peace jirgas held since the proclamation of peace programme. 6,000 former opponents are working in these commissions now. Over 400 among these are serving as deputies in Local Councils. So far more than 3,000 villages have come under state control. Over 12,000 political prisoners have been released" (*KNT*, January 13, 1988).

Shevardnadze's Talks in Kabul

Shevardnadze held wide-ranging talks with the leading figures of Afghanistan led by Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan during his visit to Kabul January 4—6, 1988. Present in the talks were Sultan Ali Keshtmand, Prime Minister, Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Full and alternate members of the Politburo and Secretaries of the CC of the PDPA.

Kamentsev, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, P.P. Mozhaev, Soviet ambassador to the Republic of Afghanistan, U.K. Alexeev, head of the department for Middle Eastern countries affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and N. Kozyrov ambassador at large were also present during the talks.

New ideas regarding giving a new impetus to the process of national reconciliation and the settlement of the issues around Afghanistan were presented by the Afghan side. Keen attention has been paid to the issue of elevation of the role of State Organs at provincial and national level considering the decisions of the historic Loya Jirga on the transformation of Afghanistan into a country with a presidential system.

The Afghan side will adopt a constructive step for the next round of Geneva talks. The Afghan side is convinced that in the next round of talks certain agreements will be concluded.

Eduard Shevardnadze categorically supported the policy of the leadership of Afghanistan regarding national reconciliation and the

practical measures adopted for its realization. The recent contacts of the Soviet Union with representatives of other countries stress the existence of international prerequisite for the solution of situation around Afghanistan and the cessation of foreign intervention in its internal affairs.

This, in turn, will pave ground for the withdrawal of the limited Soviet military contingent from Afghanistan within a 12-months period.

Complete understanding and agreement exist between the Soviet Union and Afghan sides in this regard.

Eduard Shevardnadze has also had talks with Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Mohammad Rafi, Minister of Defence, Syed Mohammad Gulabzoy, Minister of Interior, Ghulam Farouq Yaqubi, Minister of State Security, Shahnawaz Tanai, Chief of General Staff, Mahboobullah Koshani, Bashir Baghlani, Eshaq Kawa, members of the leadership of revolutionary organization of working people of Afghanistan (Radio Moscow, Kabul: January 7, 1988).

Afghanistan After the Soviet Withdrawal

The Afghan President Najibullah has told the foreign newsmen in Kabul, that his government intends to pursue a policy of non-alignment after the withdrawal of Soviet forces. According to Dr. Najibullah, Afghanistan will then be prepared to accept any foreign aid whatever the source would be. The Afghan President stressed that his regime cannot be termed as Marxist Leninist. After the repatriation of the Soviet troops, Dr. Najibullah added, the Muslim guerilla groups will be integrated in the regular armed forces of Afghanistan (Radio Netherlands: January 20, 1988).

PDPA Members Worried over Soviet Troops Withdrawal

Intelligence sources of the Afghan Mujahideen operating in Kabul and other parts of the country have reported that the Afghan Communists are worried about their fate in case the Soviet troops leave Afghanistan. According to some experts the present strength of the PDPA members is about two lakhs, only a few months ago knowledgeable Afghan sources had reported that the Soviet authorities have issued special identity cards to the leading members of the Afghan Communist Party. It is said that with the help of these identity cards the PDPA members and their families would be evacuated from Afghanistan to the Soviet Union in case of emergency. However, some new activities are being seen inside Afghanistan in connection with the expected withdrawal of Soviet troops and talks in Geneva to find a settlement of the Afghan problem. These activities also include the issue of educa-

tion of children of the Afghan Communist Party officials in the Soviet Union. According to an estimate at present about 25,000 Afghan students are studying in the Soviet educational institutions. A large number of them was sent to the Soviet Union against the will of their parents. The Afghan communist officials want to send their children to the Soviet Union to facilitate the immigration of their families in case of emergency. On the other hand citizens in Kabul say that some Afghan communists are now trying to show their dissociation with the Soviet Union so as to prove that they are nationalists and not marxists (VOA: January 9, 1988).

Afghan Resistance

Gulbadin Hekmatyar announced on January 20 that the Soviet Union expressed its willingness for talks after making secret contact with him. According to a French Press report, Hekmatyar told in a News Conference in Islamabad that the Soviet Ambassador in Pakistan held two meetings with the leader of Jamaat-e-Islami in Pakistan, Qazi Hussain Ahmad. He further said that the morale of Mujahideen is high and they would continue their war till the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan (Radio Tehran: January 22, 1988).

The leader of the Seven Party Afghan Mujahideen Alliance, Maulavi Mohammad Younis Khalis has again ruled out the possibility of Mujahideen accepting coalition with Leaders of Afghan government who are ruling the country with the support of the Soviet Union. Mr. Khalis opined that in today's Afghanistan the ideologies can be divided into two, one is Islamic and the other non-Islamic. He said Mujahideen and the Muslim people of Afghanistan would never compromise on their ideology with the communists. Mr. Khalis maintained that no foreign power has the right to impose according to its own will any settlement on Mujahideen and the Afghans. He felt that any transitional government to be formed following the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan would need military assistance and support to ensure restoration of peace there. He observed that the participation of the communists in the future government of Afghanistan would tantamount to accepting the Soviet patronisation and under such circumstances Mujahideen would not give up their struggle. Mr. Khalis said that just solution of the Afghan problem lies in the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the Mujahideen would not lay down their arms as long as Soviets are there. Because it is the only way to ensure the right of self-determination to the Afghan people (VOA: January 17, 1988).

Armacost Meets Resistance Leaders

American Under Secretary of State Michael Armacost has had a meeting in the Pakistani capital Islamabad with top representatives of the Afghan resistance movement. The talks were attended by nearly all of the Mujahideen Leaders, based in the North West Pakistani city of Peshawar. Details were not disclosed (*VOG*: January 6, 1988).

Resistance and Foreign Aid

The Washington Post, reports that President Reagan assured Afghan Freedom Fighters of continued US political and military support as long as Soviet forces in Afghanistan continue to battle them. The Post quoting administration sources said, the assurances were contained in a message to the chairman of the Islamic Alliance of the Afghan Mujahideen guerillas (*VOA*: January 3, 1988).

Secretary Shultz said that United States is willing to cut off military aid to the Afghan resistance once the Soviet Union begins a troops withdrawal. Mr. Shultz told reporters in Washington on January 7, if Soviet soldiers are pulling out peacefully there will be no need for continued military aid to the rebels. He added however, that the Kremlin must not stop the troops withdrawal once it begins (*VOA*: January 8, 1988).

Saudi Arabia has offered to end its support to the Afghan guerillas and coordinate its oil policy with the Soviet Union if Moscow withdraws from Afghanistan (*AIR*: January 2, 1988).

Gorbachev Meets Dr. Hammer

Mikhail Gorbachev had a meeting in the Kremlin on January 15 with Dr. Armand Hammer a prominent US industrialist and public figure. Hammer raised the issue of a settlement regarding Afghanistan. Referring to certain circles in the US administration, he asserted that they were waiting for more proof of the Soviet Union's goodwill in the issue. Gorbachev recalled that at the Washington meeting the Soviet delegation had made serious and constructive proposals, but "we have not yet received an adequate response from the administration and that's a pity since such a settlement could set an example of a new approach towards resolving other regional problems. Our position on this score remains clearcut. We are for the earliest possible solution of the problem. Of course, the issue of the troops withdrawal should be linked with an end to outside interference in Afghan Affairs". Gorbachev said (*KNT*, January 17, 1988).

India Trying to Expand its Role

In its efforts to help find a solution to the Afghan issue, India has been in touch with various groups from that country representing different shades of opinion. According to an official spokesman in New Delhi, the former Afghan Ruler King Zahir Shah is also among them. The King has been involved in certain formulation to end the Afghan crisis. India has also been in touch with the Afghan Seven Party Alliance operating from Peshawar, the eight party alliance based in Tehran, academicians, scholars and others. Indian efforts have been in keeping with its policy of trying to find an early negotiated and peaceful political solution of the issue (*AIR*: January 14, 1988).

Iran Demands Unconditional Withdrawal

In the context of Press reports about withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the Iranian Foreign Minister has said that the Islamic Republic of Iran from the beginning has been demanding the unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and an end to Soviet interference in Afghanistan. The Iranian Foreign Minister said that the Islamic Republic of Iran demands that Afghanistan should be converted into an independent and non-aligned country and that any government should be formed there by the Muslim people of that country. The Iranian Foreign Minister said that his country would not accept foreign interference in Afghanistan (*Radio Tehran*: January 28, 1988).

3 — NATIONALITIES POLICY

A meeting of the executive committee of the Central Council of High Jirga of Tribes was held on January 7, presided over by Habib Suhali, Chairman of the Council. Haji Mohammad Samkani, Acting First Vice President also attended the meeting. Decisions were taken by the Committee on the realization of NR policy in the border provinces, intensification of work among border tribes and certain organizational issues. It was also decided that in the light of the constitution of the country amendments should be introduced in the charter of the Central Council of the High Jirga of Tribes (*KNT*, January 10, 1988).

Najib Meets Commanders and Elders

Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan on January 17, met with commanders of tribal units at the Delkusha Presidential Palace. Najibullah said that the civil armed forces, including the tribal and regional units play a significant role in ensuring security and reali-

zation of NR policy in their regions. At the end of the meeting, President Najibullah awarded medals and banners approved by Presidential office, to the commanders who had displayed competence in carrying out their duties (*KNT*, January 18, 1988).

Najibullah met on January 13, a number of elders of the Alinigar district, Laghman province. At the meeting which was also attended by one of the leaders of the toilers organization of Afghanistan, problems of the district were discussed and necessary instructions were given to the authorities for tackling them (*KNT*, January 14, 1988).

Najibullah received, on January 17, leaders of Mohmand Tribe, residents of the Kunar province and a number of countrymen at the Delkusha palace. At the meeting Najibullah heard their demands and gave necessary instructions to the related organs for tackling the local problems raised by participants at the meeting (*KNT*, January 18, 88).

Under General Amnesty

The Afghan Government has issued the Amnesty Decree for those commanders of the opponent forces, who were awarded death penalty in absentia. In accordance with the decisions taken at the recently held Loya Jirga and clauses of the Basic constitution of Afghanistan, the death penalty of the following commanders of the opponent groups, is being revoked:—

1. Ahmad Shah Masood S/o Dost Mohammad resident of Panjsher.
2. Jalaluddin Haqqani S/o Fateh Mohammad resident of Urgan.
3. Abdus Saboor S/o Abdul Shakoor of Kapisa.
4. Mohammad Panah S/o Mohammad Amin of Panjsher.
5. Mohammad Ismail S/o Mohammad Aslam of Herat.

The decree comes into force with the date of its issuance (Radio Kabul: January 26, 1988).

More than 3,300 political prisoners have so far been released only from Pul-e-Charkhi jail, following the announcement of general amnesty by the country's President (Radio Moscow: January 22, 1988).

Jirgas Held

The tribal jirga of the Hazara nationality was held on January 13, at Mazar-e-Sharif, Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee and Governor of Balkh Province spoke about the NR policy, for the realization of peace, Deputy Chairman of the ulema and Clergymen's Council of the Balkh province also expressed their resolve to cooperate in the establishment of peace in the region. At the jirga proposals and views of the participants were set forth and decisions taken in this regard (*KNT*, January 14, 1988).

Chieftains, elders, intellectuals and representatives of Nooristan nationality held their tribal jirga in support of NR policy. Mohammad Akbar Shormach, Minister of Nationalities spoke at the jirga which was convened in the hall of the Ministry. Decisions were adopted on better organization of work for strengthening people's power in Nooristan (*KNT*, January 12, 1988).

To mark the first anniversary of the proclamation of the NR policy a grand jirga of Uzbek and Turkmen nationalities was held on January 20, in Kabul. Deputy Minister of Nationalities spoke on the duties and work plans of his Ministry in the light of the NR policy and equal rights of all nationalities residing in the country (*KNT*, January 24, 1988).

Charikar city and its suburbs were declared peace regions through a vast jirga held on January 14, 1988. Hundreds of ulema, clergymen, chieftains and representatives of the residents of Charikar city attended the jirga. Chairman of NR Commission of Parwan province read out the resolution of the jirga on proclamation of Charikar city as a peace region (*KNT*, January 16, 1988).

Religion

A protocol on the extension of cooperation was signed on January 20, between the Religion Department of Central Asia and Kazakh SSR and the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Religious Trusts of the Republic of Afghanistan. The protocol was signed by Maulavi Abdul Jamil Zarifi Minister of Islamic Affairs and Religious Trusts and Mufti Shamsuddin Chairman of the Religious Department of the Central Asia and Kazakh-SSR (*KNT*, January 21, 1988).

A congregational mosque was inaugurated in a function held on January 9 in Khair Khana Maina. The mosque named Ismael Zabihullah was constructed at a cost of over one million Afghanis from state budget and with the cooperation of the residents of the area, it can accommodate over 500 worshippers (*KNT*, January 10, 1988).

Mufti Shamsuddin Ehsan Baba Khan, head of the religious department of the Kazakh-SSR, presented 1,000 volumes of the Holy Quran printed in the Soviet Central Asia, to the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Religious Trusts of Afghanistan (*KNT*, January 17, 1988).

4 — ECONOMY

A periodic session of the permanent commission for planning and budgetary affairs of the RC, met on January 26, in Kabul. The results of the nine months implementation of state plan and budget

were scrutinized in the session which pointed out that despite the successes achieved, there are certain shortcomings in the implementation of the state budget, by some of the ministries and departments. The session endorsed a directive on tackling the existing shortcomings and drafting a precise plan for the next Afghan year in the light of the constitution and the process of NR policy (*KNT*, January 7, 1988).

Protocols Signed

A protocol on maintenance of Salang highway was signed on December 31, 1987 in Kabul between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Based on this protocol the Soviet Union will assist as a gratis aid the equipments needed for the diesel power stations and repair of Salang tunnels (*KNT*, January 2, 1988).

A protocol on the export of natural gas was signed on January 23, by the Ministry of Mines and Industries of the RA and Sayouz Gas Export Union of the Soviet Union. A spokesman for the Ministry of Mines and Industries said that the price of Afghan gas was fixed at international level by the two governments (*KNT*, January 26, 1988).

Protocol on setting up of water pump stations over the Kunduz river was signed between the Republic of Afghanistan and Soviet Union. Based on this agreement the Soviet Union will provide Afghanistan during the next 2 years, 84 items of equipments valued at 167 thousand roubles for setting up pump stations in Khawaja Alwan area of Kunduz. With the establishment of these pump stations, thousand hectares of land will become under cultivation (*KNT*, January 2, 1988).

A protocol was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms of the RA and the State Agro-Industrial Committee of the USSR in Moscow on January 11, for developing bilateral cooperation in farming. This will include increased Soviet supplies of tractors, harvesters, mineral fertilizers and seeds for Afghanistan. Ghulam Farouq Kubakiwal added that the Soviet Agro-Industrial Committee and the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms had drafted a long-term programme for developing agriculture in Afghanistan in the period upto the year 2000 (*KNT*, January 12, 1988).

A protocol on further extension of cooperation between Kabul and Moscow cities was signed on January 17 in the hall of Kabul Municipality. According to the protocol the executive committee of the Moscow City Council will help Kabul city during the period 1988-1990 in improving construction, transport, public health, education and civic amenities. The protocol was signed by Adeena Sangin, Kabul city Mayor and Papov Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Moscow City Committee (*KNT*, January 19, 1988).

New Projects

The foundation stone of the Oxygen production unit was laid in Jangalak factory on January 14, in Kabul. The function held on the occasion was attended by Guldad, Deputy Prime Minister, Mohammad Eshaq Kawa, Minister of Mines and Industries and Assistant Commercial Counsellor of the Soviet Embassy. The unit is being built at a cost of 20,000,000 Afghanis from the state budget and 90,000 dollar assistance of the Soviet Union, by the Afghan Construction Unit (*KNT*, January 16, 1988).

The completion of two new big cement factories in Herat and Baghlan provinces with the assistance of Czechoslovakia, will raise the annual cement production from 115,000 tons to 660,000 tons. With the completion of two factories, it will not only be possible to meet the country need for cement, but also to export cement. At present there are two cement factories working, Jabulsaraj factory which was set up with the assistance of Czechoslovakia in 1957, while the Ghoricement factory was established in 1962 in Pulikhumri district of Baghlan province, also with Czechoslovakian assistance (*KNT*, January 31, 1988).

Direct Cooperation Programme

The high ranking delegation of Kazakh-SSR led by O.I. Zohltikov, deputy chairman of the council of Ministers of the Republic, met on January 30, Mahboobullah Kushani, Deputy Prime Minister and chairman of the state Planning Committee. Discussion were held on expansion and growth of direct cooperation of Kazakh-SSR with Qandahar, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces during the current year. All round assistance was promised by the delegation in this regard (*KNT*, January 31, 1988).

The current opening of a store named "Kabul" in Moscow has opened the way for the inauguration of a similar store named "Moscow" in Kabul, in the near future. Nine institutions and organizations of Moscow have already designed drafts of contracts on direct cooperation in the sphere of economy and production. The Afghan capital will receive representatives of Moscow in the next three months to conclude the contracts (*KNT*, January 12, 1988).

Kharkov province of Ukraine SSR would give agricultural machinery and pesticides to Parwan province and would train personnel for departments of agriculture and land reforms, public health and education in 1988. This is in accordance with an agreement reached between the two provinces on direct cooperation. The agreement also envisages the construction of a 200-bed hospital and a kindergarten with accom-

modation for 300 children in Charikar city (*KNT*, January 12, 1988).

Protocols on Direct Cooperation

A protocol on direct cooperation between the power organization department of Kabul and Moscow was signed in Kabul on January 18. Based on the protocol, power department of Moscow, will give as gratis aid to Kabul, power equipment, tools for transformer repair workshop and petrol storage valued at over one million roubles. Also it will assist Kabul in training professional cadres (*KNT*, January 19, 1988).

A protocol on cooperation between the Moldavian-SSR and the RA for power supply to Ghazni province was signed in Kabul on January 20, as per the protocol, power equipment valued at over 500,000 roubles will be delivered to the Republic of Afghanistan. Workers and employees of Ghazni power department will be sent to take rest in Moldavia and experts from there will be sent to Afghanistan to assist in training cadres (*KNT*, January 21, 1988).

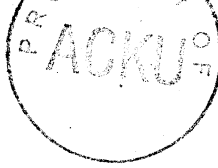
A protocol on exchange of goods between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in 1988, was signed in Kabul on January 11. The protocol envisages the growth of exchange of goods between the two countries in 1988. Under the protocol the Soviet Union will export to Afghanistan machinery and equipment for petroleum establishments, fertilizers, iron, construction material, foodstuffs and will import from Afghanistan natural gas, handicrafts, Olives and dry fruits (*KNT*, January 12, 1988).

Aid under Direct Cooperation Programme

Badakhshan Kohi province of Tajik-SSR will donate 1,200 tons of wheat, 400 tons rice, 200 tons edible oil and 200 tons salt to Badakhshan province of the Republic of Afghanistan. It is envisaged in the protocol that the trade, economic and cultural relations between Badakhshan province of the Republic of Afghanistan and Soviet Badakhshan would expand and consumer goods, construction and educational material valued at over 71,000 roubles will be given to Badakhshan province by the Soviet Badakhshan (*KNT*, January 27, 1988).

The first caravan of goods from the Azerbaijan-SSR under direct cooperation programme, arrived in Khost division on January 6. The 102 tons of goods comprised, water pumps for deep wells, garments, shoes, bicycles, equipment and agricultural machines etc. The assistance of Azerbaijan Republic to Khost division is continuing (*KNT*, January 11, 1988).

A caravan of 77 vehicles carrying relief goods aided by the Soviet Union and consisting of blankets, coarse carpets, footwear, clothes,



sugar, match boxes etc. recently arrived in Maimana city of Faryab province. It will be distributed soon to the needy people (*KNT*, January 25, 1988).

The chapaevsk province of the Soviet Union has given as gratis aid to Kabul province under the direct cooperation programme, different equipment needed for education, public health, agriculture, transport and communications this year. Some of these items were recently delivered to the Afghan side and distributed to peasants, state institutions and cooperatives etc free (*KNT*, January 7, 1988).

The first caravan carrying gratis aid of Kherson province of Ukraine of the Soviet Union arrived on January 26, in Zaranj capital of Numruz province. The aid includes transport equipment, diesel generators, electrical appliances, wheat and other consumer goods (*KNT*, January 27, 1988).

28 items of technical and construction equipment, valued at 200,000 roubles have been gifted by Azerbaijan-SSR to Paktiya province. The items included electric generators medical instruments, water pumps, spare parts for machines, road making equipment, transport and technical equipment (*KNT*, January 30, 1988).

On the eve of new year a caravan carrying gifts and presents of the Uzbek-SSR to the people of Afghanistan reached on December 31, 1987. The gifts are to be distributed free of charge in the northern provinces of Afghanistan (*KNT*, January 2, 1988).

Industrial Production

Machinery of the woollen textile mill of Pul-e-Charkhi will be substantially augmented for increasing production during the current development plan of the country. The work to be completed with Soviet cooperation will increase the production of the plant from 70,000 to 600,000 metres. It is envisaged that the work costing 425 million Afghanis will be completed by the end of H.S. 1369 (1990) (*KNT*, January 4, 1988).

Over 4,4000 metres of cotton cloth was produced (in the nine months) since March 1987, in Jabulsaraj textile factory of Parwan province. Two spinning machines were recently commissioned in the factory to increase production, other spinning machines will be installed in the future. By commissioning of these machines the need for raw materials will be fully met in the factory (*KNT*, January 6, 1988).

Afghan-made bicycles will be in the market in a few days time. Machinery in the bicycle factory, supplied through the 50-million roubles credit of the Soviet Union, was installed with the cooperation of Soviet experts. The factory will produce 40,000 bicycles per year

and supply them to the markets (*KNT*, January 9, 1988).

Afghan Carpentry Enterprise has produced equipments worth 185 million Afghanis during the period between March-December 1987. This figure shows a 104 per cent increase compared with 1986 (*KNT*, January 14, 1988).

Kabul Felez factory has produced over 6,000 chairs and desks costing over 44 million Afghanis for schools in Kabul during the current year (*KNT*, January 6, 1988).

Construction

The high ranking delegation of the Soviet state construction committee led by O.V. Borthhev, met on January 27, Nazar Muhammad, Minister of construction in Kabul. The Minister of construction inform the delegation of the activities of his ministry and the delegation expressed readiness to render all round assistance in the sphere of construction and expansion of cooperation (*KNT*, January 28, 1988).

The expansion of Mazar-e-Sharif Silo which was started in 1983 will be completed by the end of the current Afghan year. The project cost 221 million Afghanis and is being built with the assistance of the Soviet Union. With completion of this project, the storage capacity of the Silo will be doubled from 20,000 tons to 40,000 tons (*KNT*, January 12, 1988).

Over 10,000 land plots have been distributed to people in Pul-e-Charkhi residential project. Since the beginning of the current year a total of 6,762 land plots have been distributed to the applicants. The construction of residential houses has progressed 70 per cent, said a source of Kabul Municipality. Apart from 13,211 land plots, the project has schools, kindergartens, health clinics, mosques and other facilities (*KNT*, January 11, 1988).

Over 25 km of water pipes have been laid in Kabul city this year under the water supply project with the assistance of the UNDP, WHO and World Bank at a cost of 850 million Afghanis. The commissioning of the project has improved the water supply in major areas of Kabul including Karte Se Shah Shahid, Taimani and Shash Darak area (*KNT*, January 6, 1988).

Power Supply

Kabul power distribution junction was commissioned in a function held on January 2. A spokesman of the Ministry of Power said that with the commissioning of this junction, power supply in the city would improve and would be stabilized to Khair-Khana maina, Wazirabad and Karte Parwan residential areas. The equipment for the above

centre valued at 28 million Afghanis had been supplied through the GDR credit (*KNT*, January 3, 1988).

The construction and installation of power junction of Paghman district with the capacity of 160 KWA has been completed and it was inaugurated on January 6. It will provide electricity to 200 houses of Dare Zargar, security post of Tappe Paghman and Qala Hakim (*KNT*, January 7, 1988).

A power distribution centre was inaugurated in a function by Raz Mohammad Paktin Minister of Power in Bagh-e-Qazi, First Precinct of Kabul city. It will supply electricity to one hundred families (*KNT*, January 2, 1988).

Private Sector

The council of Ministers has approved on December 31, 1987, the setting up of eleven projects in the private sector with initial investment of 136 million Afghanis and working capital of 220 million Afghanis. The projects include metal works, pharmaceuticals, ink manufacturing, tailoring, foodstuffs, and construction are to be built in Kabul, Kunduz and Takhar provinces (*KNT*, January 3, 1988).

Soviet economic organizations are considering proposals by Afghan private companies on the formation of small scale joint business ventures. The suggested ventures are in the areas of footwear, textiles and other consumer goods, shops for the repair of household appliances and bakeries. The Soviet Union has received over one hundred proposals for the setting up of such business ventures (Radio Moscow: January 13, 1988).

Foodstuff Shortage in Kabul

According to the reports reaching here from across the border, Kabul is facing shortage of foodstuff and essential commodities. The government had imported large quantity of meat from India, but the people had refused to buy the meat as it was not Halal. It is reported that Kabul government has requested the Indian government for the supply of alive chicken, so that it could be supplied to the people. The gas stations of Kabul regime were operating for limited hours due to fuel shortage (The Nation: January 27, 1988).

Public Supply Department procures and sells essential goods through its 127 coupon stores and 47 administration stores all over Afghanistan. A spokesman of the department said to provide coupon materials for 255 thousand coupon holders, the department has concluded 17 contracts on the purchase of essential goods with foreign companies. These materials included 3,000 tons of tea, 4,66,517 tons

of sugar, 200 tons of salt and 13,000 tons of edible oil. Also 24, 500 tons of sugar, 2,000 tons of soap, 1,000 tons of washing powder, 4,500 tons of salt assisted by the Soviet Union were distributed to coupon holders (*KNT*, January 6, 1988).

Afghan-Indian Trade

After the April revolution, Afghanistan's trade relations with India got a remarkable boost. To expand and strengthen economic relations, talks have been regularly held and contacts were established at different levels between the two countries and trade delegation were exchanged. Trade agreements have also been signed. In 1983-85 the value of total exports of the Republic of Afghanistan to India reached 200.85 million dollars and her imports from India were estimated at 89.24 million dollars. The main export items of Afghanistan to India have been fresh and dried fruits and medicinal herbs and imports from India tea, medicines, tyres, textiles, bicycles, sewing machines etc. As per the June 14, 1987 agreement trade between the Republic of Afghanistan and India is in freely convertible currency. Under subsequent contracts between the two governments, the barter system could also be used for the development of trade. In June 1987 an Indian trade exhibition was held in Kabul which displayed the products of 150 industrial and business firms including the public sector (*KNT*, January 3, 1988).

Agriculture

Herat

More than 98,200 hectares of land have been cultivated with wheat, grain and other crops during the autumn campaign of the current Afghan year in Herat province. A spokesman of the agricultural department of Herat province said, that 4,195 tons of fertilizers 850 tons of improved wheat seeds and insecticide and pesticide costing 2,177,000 Afghanis were distributed to the peasants during the period. Also 8,189,000 Afghanis were given as credit to the peasants (*KNT*, January 6, 1988).

Balkh

Wheat, barley, cotton and other cereals have been grown in an area of over 8,900 hectares in Dehdadi district of Balkh province. Six agriculture mechanized subunits have been newly set up in the six villages of the district. 78 tons of improved wheat seeds and 176 tons of fertilizers have been distributed to individual peasants. In addition 66 tons of improved wheat seeds and 176 tons of fertilizer were distributed in cash and loan to the six agriculture cooperative of Dehdadi district. These

cooperatives with 1750 members cultivate on area of over 73,000 jeribs (5 jerib equal to one hectare) of land (*KNT*, January 4, 1988).

Fertilizers, improved seeds and agricultural machinery, costing over 4.5 million Afghanis, were distributed to the peasants of Balkh province during the autumn and spring sowing campaign of the current Afghan year. A spokesman of the agriculture and land reforms department of the province said that over 190,000 hectares belonging to individual peasants, cooperatives and state farms were cultivated with wheat, barley, vegetables and other crops during the period. 43 tractors, seven combines and spare parts, all together costing 35.8 million Afghanis were advanced by the Agricultural Development Bank. Fertilizer, improved seeds, insecticides and pesticides valued at 15.8 million Afghanis were supplied to individual peasants, members of cooperatives and state farms during this period. An area of 800,000 hectares is to be cultivated, using agricultural machinery (*KNT*, January 17, 1988).

Samangan

Over 18,500 hectares of land have been cultivated with wheat and other grains during the autumn campaign in Samangan province. Over 258 tons of improved wheat seeds, 378 tons of fertilizers and insecticides and pesticides costing 153,000 Afghanis were distributed to peasants (*KNT*, January 9, 1988).

Parwan

Over 6,100,000 Afghanis were distributed to the peasants and members of the cooperatives as credit through the Agricultural Development Bank of Parwan province, during the spring and autumn campaign of the current Afghan year (*KNT*, January 9, 1988).

Farah

Over 2,400 hectares of land have been cultivated with wheat, grains and other crops during the autumn campaign of the current Afghan year in Farah province. 500 tons of fertilizer 1,045 tons of improved wheat seeds and insecticides costing over 85,000 Afghanis were distributed to the peasants during the campaign (*KNT*, January 9, 1988).

Briefs

The Handicraft Export Promotion Centre of Afghanistan, exported during the last nine months, handicrafts, goods, valued at over 140,000 dollars (*KNT*, January 12, 1988).

The value of Afghanis (Afghan currency) is decreased against

American dollar by three per cent in one week. It is a record low exchange rate as one American dollar is equal to 205 Afghanis (The Nations, January 27, 1988).

As instructed by President Najibullah, the council of Ministers has reviewed the name Bakhtar Afghan Airlines and changed it to Ariana Afghan Airlines (*KNT*, January 28, 1988).

5 — EDUCATION

The delegation of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union led by Academician Marchuk Gori Ivanovich, left Kabul on January 23, for home. During its stay in Afghanistan the delegation had discussions with leading bodies of the party state and Academy of Sciences of the RA. The Soviet side endorsed the proposal of the academy of sciences of the RA on organizing a research commission in different fields. During the meetings discussions were also held about the economic, technical and scientific cooperation of the Soviet Union in the construction of a township for the Academy of Sciences of RA, and preparing facilities for training Ph.D. students from Afghanistan in the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union, in the fields of seismological studies, chemistry, physics and other subjects. Views were also exchanged for the scientific study by scholars of the two countries on the joint space flight. Protocols were signed on scientific cooperation between the RA and USSR for the period of five years and gratis aid of the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union to the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Afghanistan for 1988 (*KNT*, January 24, 1988).

New Schools Opened

Five new schools of Shakardara, Khawaja Musafer and Lalandar districts, in Kabul province, with an enrolment of 5,266 students were constructed or rehabilitated during the nine months of the current year (*KNT*, January 30, 1988).

The construction of a boarding school for tribal children has started in Assadabad, centre of Kunar province. The building will be constructed at a cost of 21 million Afghanis, from the government budget (*KNT*, January 11, 1988).

Two elementary schools a kindergarten, a Watan children's Home with a capacity of 2,465 students were opened, and three elementary schools were rehabilitated during the period March-December 1987 in Laghman province. Now more than 6,800 students are studying in the schools of the province. They are taught by 229 teachers (*KNT*, Jan-

uary 5, 1988).

In Balkh province over 11,600 students are studying in 17 educational institutions, including two lycees, 11 primary schools, two workers supplementary schools, which were newly set up and rehabilitated in the last nine months. A spokesman of the Education Department of Balkh province said that the construction of the buildings of two lycees, two primary schools, four secondary schools, Rodaki pedagogical institute and literacy department have been completed at a cost of 53,500,000 Afghanis in the province.

A total of over 31,900 students are enrolled in 78 educational institutions in Balkh province. They are taught by over 1,640 teachers (*KNT*, January 12, 1988).

Technical Education

A group of young men and women from the Afghan province of Herat, who study at the Polytechnic Institute of Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan has passed first examination in the Russian Language. They joined the Institute within the framework of assistance given by many Soviet Republics and districts to Afghan provinces. These ties provides for granting aid in the training of specialists for Afghanistan. The aid includes the delivery of school equipment, training appliances and medicines as well as the sending of doctors and teachers (*Radio Moscow*, January 12, 1988).

About 1,000 young cadres have graduated from Kabul Auto-Mechanical Technicum since its establishment. The Technicum trains young cadres in the repair of auto and electric appliances and the manufacture of machines. The graduates of this Technicum meet 20 per cent requirement of cadres of the technical, transport and industrial institutions of the country. At present there are 806 boys and girls in Kabul Auto-Mechanical Technicum. After passing an entrance exam eighth grade school student from the capital and provinces are admitted for a period of 5.5 years in this Technicum. But the term of study for the 12 grade students is only 2.5 years. In addition to a diploma, a certificate in Russian Language and a driving licence are also given to the graduates of this Technicum. Ten top students of the Technicum are sent every year for higher education to the Soviet Union. For example, 90 students have so far been sent for higher education to the USSR. There are 80 Afghan and 20 Russian teachers in this Technicum (*KNT*, January 12, 1988).

Telecommunications Training Centre (TTC) has produced so far over 2,000 trained cadres in different fields of communications. TTC was established in 1969, has now 340 students in different fields of

Radio, TV, Telegraph, Channel, Cable and Microwave. TTC admits students who have passed the ninth grade, then they undergo training for five years. The graduates of the centre are employed as assistant engineers. A course for 11th grade students was also established under the TTC three years ago and has 60 students (*KNT*, January 16, 1988).

Publications

31 political, social and literary books have been published in the current year by the printing department and about 20 others are presently under print, reveals printing department of the state committee for printing and publications (*KNT*, January 28, 1988).

New Library

A public library, housing over 2,000 books on different scientific, literary, political and historical subjects was recently opened in Dehyak sub-district of Ghazni province. Apart from this, three other libraries have been opened in Ghazni. Over 7,400 local residents used the books and other materials available there (*KNT*, January 10, 1988).

Youth

To celebrate the first anniversary of the proclamation of NR policy, grand functions were held on January 12, in 14 winter cultural centres by the Kabul city Committee of DYOA, participants of the function numbering over 10,000 signed at the foot of a message issued by Kabul city youth in support of the NR policy (*KNT*, January 16, 1988).

International day of solidarity with Kampuchean youth and students was marked on January 10 in the central club of DYOA. The message of youth organizations, addressed to the Revolutionary Association of Kampuchean Youth and Pioneers Organizations of the country were also read out at the function (*KNT*, January 11, 1988).

Youth Work Brigades

Over 33 million Afghanis have been saved to the government through the work of youth brigades, including schools and university students who worked in their summer vacation in 111 production and construction projects. At present over 4,300 students organized in youth brigades are engaged in work at seven production institutions of Kabul city. The youth have been introduced to the projects by the Central Committee of the DYOA. Work and construction brigades play a valuable role in raising the production and strengthening national economy. This movement is gaining momentum day by day. The

number of youth enrolled in youth brigades, was 1,000 in 1984, which now has increased to 13,000 in 1987 (*KNT*, January 6, 1988).

The 29th anniversary of the Cuban revolution was celebrated in a function held in the youth central club under the auspices of the CC of the DYOA. The function ended with a concert given by artistes of Gul-e-Surkh (*KNT*, January 10, 1988).

The second batch of work brigades of the central apparatus of the Ministries of High Education Technical and Vocational Education and Technical and Vocational Schools have returned to Kabul after carrying out effective work in Qandahar province. The youth work brigades had gone to Qandahar on November 16, 1987 to contribute in construction work and social services in the province (*KNT*, January 10, 1988).

Health

Medicines and equipment worth over 3,650,000 Afghanis were donated by Red Cross Societies of Friendly Countries to the Afghan Red Crescent Society during the current Afghan year. A spokesman of the Society said that one ton of medicines costing over 2,350,000 Afghanis has been donated by Czechoslovakia and, medical equipments, sports shoes and cloths valued at 708,000 Afghanis, by the Red Cross of the Hungarian People's Republic and the Soviet Union. The goods have been partially distributed (*KNT*, January 6, 1988).

A group of physicians from Kolyab region in the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Tadzhikistan has arrived in the neighbouring Afghan province of Takhar to give medical assistance to the local rural population. Among other things they will carry out preventive measures against infectious diseases and provide medical tools and medicines for first aid stations in the country-side. The trip is made under an agreement on cooperation between the two neighbouring territories of Tajikistan (*KNT*, January 11, 1988).

Over 70,000 patients have been treated in Faryab hospital during the past nine months of the current Afghan year. During the same period over 92,500 CC blood was donated by the people of the province to the needy patients and 790 patients underwent radiography and radioscopy tests in the X-rays department of the hospital (*KNT*, January 6, 1988).

A plane carrying 5.5 tons of goods gifted by the GDR, arrived on January 20, in Kabul. The gifts which includes medicines and medical equipment were handed over by Kraft Bumbal ambassador of GDR to the representative of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of the Republic of Afghanistan (*KNT*, January 21, 1988).

New Construction

Construction work of a health centre has begun in Goshta district of Ningarhar province. The centre is to be built at a cost of four million Afghanis from the state development budget. It will have five wards and other essential amenities (*KNT*, January 14, 1988).

80 per cent construction of a 200-bed hospital has been completed in Kunduz city. A spokesman of the Ministry of Public Health said that the construction of the hospital, valued at 25 million Afghanis is to be met from nine million rouble credit of the Soviet Union, granted in 1986. It will be completed by July 1988 (*KNT*, January 9, 1988).

The construction work of the health centre in Khawaja Musa sub-district, started in the beginning of the current Afghan year. It is being built by the state at a total cost of Afghanis, 2,000,000. It has made 80% progress and it is envisaged to be completed and commissioned by April 1988 (*KNT*, January 6, 1988).

A health centre is to be established in Taraikot village of seventh precinct of Kabul city to further facilitate the villagers there. The centre is to be built on an area of 2,850 sq. m. at a cost of 2.744 million Afghanis from state development budget. The construction work of the centre is scheduled to be completed by early 1989 (*KNT*, January 13, 1988).

6 — SOCIAL AND CULTURE

A session of the Presidium of Afghan-CSSR Friendship Association was held on January 17, in the headquarters of Friendship Association with foreign countries, under the chairmanship of Hassan Sharq, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman Afghan-Czechoslovak Friendship Association. A report was presented on the activities of the association during 1987. The session endorsed the association's work plan for 1988. Bohuslov Handi, ambassador of the CSSR, was also present on the occasion (*KNT*, January 18, 1988).

The Afghan-Soviet Friendship Association in a message has condoled the demise of Sergy Antonov, President of the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Association. From 1966, he had served as head of the Soviet Association of Friendship and Cultural relations with Afghanistan. Sergy Antonov passed away at the age of 77, on December 28, 1987 (*KNT*, January 5, 1988).

The Republic of Afghanistan has declared four days state mourning from January 20th, on the passing away of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. The state flag of the RA inside the country and at its diplomatic missions abroad shall fly half mast and there will be no official enter-

tainments during the mourning (*KNT*, January 21, 1988).

Adeena Sangin, Kabul Mayor met on January 13, with the delegation of the Executive Committee of the Moscow City Council. Adeena Sangin informed the delegation about the civic conditions in Kabul city and problems caused by the increase in population. The Soviet side promised every cooperation in tackling the city's problems. The delegation also called on Sher Bahadur, Minister of Public Health and Abdul Samad Qayumi, Minister of Education (*KNT*, January 14, 1988).

A session to elect delegates to the Conference of Lawyers' Association which is to be held in Kabul, was held on January 11, at the Supreme Court. The session was presided over by Nizamuddin Tahzib, Chief Justice and was attended by Judges of the Supreme Court (*KNT*, January 12, 1988).

Presently 804 orphans are under the care of Watan Children's Home in Kunduz province. The children's home in Kunduz was established in 1984. Furghan Tappa province of Tajikistan-SSR has recently donated foodstuffs and consumer goods including children's garments and toys, valued at 300,000 Afghanis to the Kunduz children's home (*KNT*, January 9, 1988).

Culture

The commission for approving awards of Afghan-Soviet Friendship met on January 14. Eight distinguished personalities who made active contribution to consolidate Afghan-Soviet friendship were selected for awards in 1988. The meeting was also attended by Haider Masoud, President of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Association (*KNT*, January 17, 1988).

Seminars Held

An international symposium entitled "Writers and National Reconciliation" opened on January 24, at Malmahal Hotel with the participation of Writers from Asian and African continents, prominent men of culture and Writers of the country. Sultan Ali Keshtmand Prime Minister, inaugurated the symposium. Touching upon the role of the Writers in reflecting the objectives and advantages of NR, he explained in detail the achievements of the new policy in Afghanistan in advancing peace and acceleration of socio-economic activities (*KNT*, January 25, 1988).

The work of symposium entitled, "Kabul at the crossroads of history" which was held at Malmahal Hotel under the auspices of writers association of Afghanistan, concluded on January 6, 1988. Chairman of the Writer's Association said, it is for the first time that a "symposium of Kabul at the crossroads of history" held in the country.

The symposium was attended by social figures and men of science and culture. 49 scholars of all fraternal nationalities of Afghanistan read their papers dealing with various aspects of the culture, art, politics, sociology, history, geography and ecology of Kabul city. The symposium was held in line with the cultural policy of the government of Afghanistan (*KNT*, January 7, 1988).

The first national seminar on Afghan music was inaugurated on January 16 in the hall of Amany Lycee. The seminar was inaugurated by Abdul Hamid Muhtat, Deputy Prime Minister, who said in his address that the first national music seminar is being conducted to give a concrete direction to the music of the country (*KNT*, January 17, 88).

Around 400 students interested in music and singing are presently enrolled in the music training centre of the state committee, which was established with the cultural cooperation of Indian government. Four Indian teachers, besides Afghans, teach at the music training centre (*KNT*, January 30, 1988).

The repair of priceless Ghazni relics including Tappa Sardar, Bahram Shah and Masud III minarets is going ahead under the supervision of experts and archaeologists. A source of the Culture Department of the province reports, that one million and three hundred thousands Afghanis were spent for the purpose, from the state budget. Repair of Tappa Sardar has been completed and of Bahram Shah minaret by 30 per cent and of Minaret and Castle of Masud III by 20 per cent. Besides, as a result of the archaeological exploration started nine months ago in Ghazni, more than 200 decorative items of the Ghaznavid have been found recently. The finds are being studied by archaeologists (*KNT*, January 9, 1988).

ACKU
Serial
175
371.2
A373
No. 46

STRATEGIC STUDIES

(Quarterly Journal)

Published by

The Institute of Strategic Studies
Sector F-5/2
(P.O. Box 1173) Islamabad, Pakistan

Contains Stratagems, Strategic Map Review,
Research Articles on Strategy and Allied
Disciplines and Book Reviews

Subscription Rates:—

<i>Annual</i>	:	Pakistan	Rs.	50/-	
		Overseas	\$	10/-	(including surface postage)
<i>Single Copy</i>	:	Pakistan	Rs.	15/-	
		Overseas	\$	3/-	(including surface postage)

Available in all major bookshops in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, Karachi, and Sialkot. Also reaching out to over 150 centres of learning abroad.

